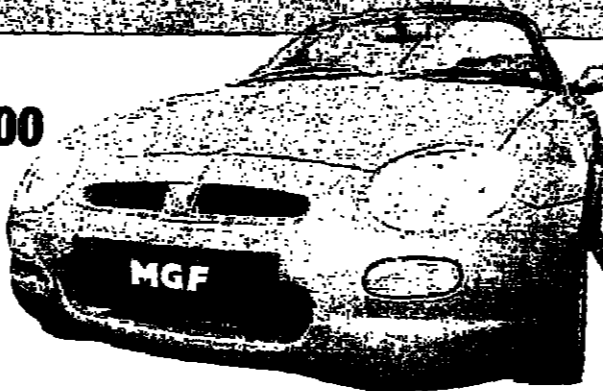


TODAY

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A guide to toddler chic
WEEKEND

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THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

SUMMER OF '66

A celebration of English football's finest hours

PLUS: in 1996 Win tickets to the Euro 96 final



BOBBY ROBSON ON THE OPENING SHOTS OF EURO 96

PLUS 25 PAGES OF SPORT

EVERY SUMMER MONDAY THE TIMES IS ONLY 10p

£18m bill for fire service's 'blunder'

By IAN MURRAY AND RICHARD DUCE

EMERGENCY services face a state of claims for damages after a county council was ordered to pay £16 million compensation and more than £2 million legal costs yesterday because of a "bad blunder" by its fire brigade.

Hampshire was found liable by the High Court for the damage to the state-of-the-art headquarters of Digital Equipment computer complex in Basingstoke, which was destroyed by fire in 1990.

The court refused to accept the council's argument that fire brigades, like the police, are immune from being sued as a matter of public policy. The county is to seek leave to appeal, but brigades fear that the decision could lead to many more damages claims.

"If this judgment is upheld, it means that anybody who has a grievance about the way a fire was put out can go to law," Mark Oates, of the Association of County Councils, said. "It is going to make firemen start worrying about the legal consequences when they should be thinking about putting out the fire."

Mike Warner, chairman of the association's fire services committee, said: "This is a dangerous precedent. It will affect the judgment of officers about whether to send their men into a fire. Judges sitting on benches have no idea what it means to go into a blazing building and take life-and-death decisions while facing death themselves."

The Digital Equipment fire on March 6, 1990 left little time for the brigade to act. There was just time to evacuate the 400 staff before the blaze swept through the modern building. More than 100 firefighters from 15 Hamp-

shire and Berkshire stations were called, but they had little chance because of the speed with which the fire spread through the building. A plume of smoke that could be seen from 20 miles away rose above the fire.

"The fire was moving faster than a man could run," according to Peter Robertson, Chief Executive of Hampshire. "They had no hope of doing much about it because of the design of the building. There were no fire breaks and a fire ball just swept through the roof space in no time."

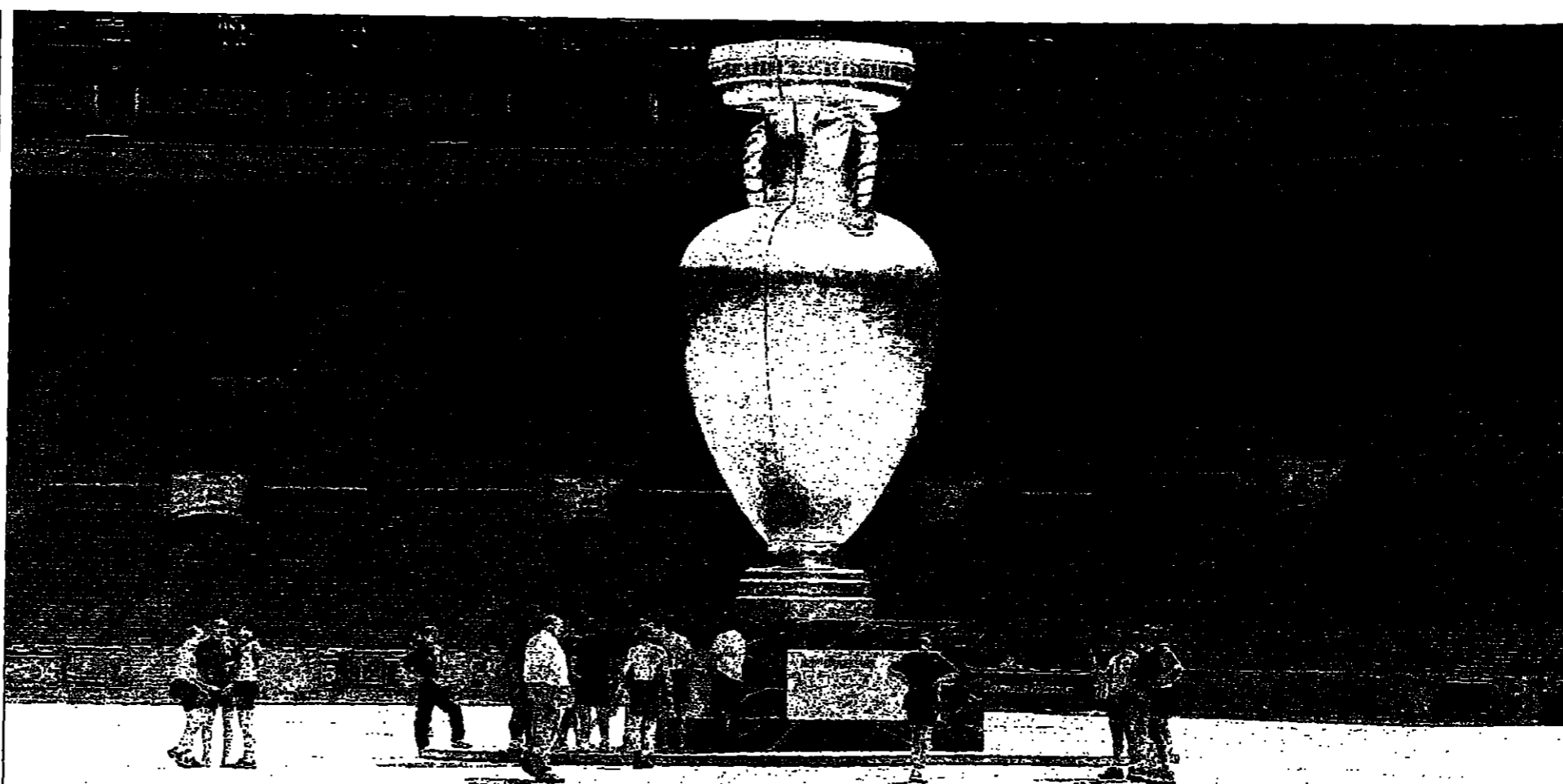
"The officer in charge took a decision to turn the sprinkler system off. There was so much smoke billowing up that it was impossible to see where the seat of the fire was. He decided that the sprinklers were contributing to the smoke and that if they were switched off, it might be possible to find the seat of the fire and put it out. On top of that, he came to the conclusion that as there was so much computer equipment there, it would be wrecked if water poured on to it."

"He took the best decision he could in very difficult circumstances. We have no criticism to make of him."

"On the contrary, the fact that there were no casualties at all in a very major fire is a tribute to his efficiency. Instead of being sued, we should be being thanked. This judgment is a disaster, not only for the county, but for brigades all over the country. It means that council tax payers are being asked to pick up the bill which should be paid by insurance companies."

He added: "The meaning of this judgment is that if you do nothing, you can't be held liable."

Continued on page 2, col 6



A dress rehearsal for today's opening ceremony at Wembley of the European football championship, at which 40,000 balloons will be released from a replica of the trophy

Wembley prepares to send balloon up for Euro 96

By JOHN GOODBODY, ALICE THOMPSON AND MICHAEL BINYON

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS will this afternoon unveil a 35-ft high replica of the European football championship trophy at Wembley in the opening ceremony of the biggest sports event to be staged in Britain since the 1966 World Cup.

The pageantry of the opening ceremony, including medieval knights and a parade of famous English players of the past, will be screened in 194 countries. As the replica trophy opens, it will release about 40,000 balloons.

John Major last night heralded the start of Euro 96, saying he hoped it would spark the return of the feelgood factor and a summer of easy living.

He said: "We are just entering summer sporting heaven — the Olympics and, starting today, Euro 96. All in all, a mouth-watering feast of sporting entertainment. And the sun has even started to shine."

In a 600-word article for the



Press Association, he said he was delighted that the third-biggest sporting event in the world was taking place in England and extolled the virtues of British football.

Mr Major gave tips on who to watch — Djorkaeff and Del Piero — and countries to beware of — a Klinsmann-powered Germany. "I would not write off the likes of Croatia, Russia and Portugal," he wrote.

A Euro 96 spokesman said yesterday: "The dress rehearsal went perfectly. But the knights must have been sweltering inside their armour."

More than 1,000 officers will be on duty at Wembley for England's opening game against Switzerland, which kicks-off at 3 pm. This follows the opening ceremony, which will begin with a display entitled "Merrie England" — a carnival of 320 dancers, followed by an exhibition of men dressed as medieval knights and a parade of players, including Sir Stanley, Gary Lineker, and Sir Bobby and Jackie Charlton.

British consular staff of keeping out genuine fans on the pretext that they were seeking work or political asylum. They gave a warning that if the issue was not resolved by Monday, the Russian consulate in London would start copying British delays.

In the only sour note, hundreds of Russian football fans who paid thousands of pounds for fares and accommodation will be unable to watch their side play in because they have not been granted visas.

The furious fans have besieged the Russian state football union. Angry Russian officials yesterday accused

of the 373 fans seeking to come to Britain, only 62 had received visas by yesterday. About 245 have been asked to go for interview, but only five or six applicants are being processed each day. Most fans submitted their applications more than six weeks ago, but many have been invited to the embassy for interview the day after Russia plays its first game, on June 11. At interviews, they have been asked to name the Russian coach and the clubs from which the players come.

The fans have pre-paid their fixed date plane tickets, which cannot be changed. They also stand to lose huge sums in lost hotel bookings and tickets.

No-go zone, page 5
Complete guide pages 46-48

Hussain's first Test century

Nasser Hussain scored 128, his maiden Test century, to steer England to 313, a first-innings lead of 99 over India on the second day of the first Test at Edgbaston. India were five for no wicket in their second innings when bad light stopped play. Page 48

Derby double

Henry Cecil, who won yesterday's Oaks with Lady Carla, saddles the favourite, Dushyantor, for today's Vodafone Derby. Page 48

Rabies fear after pregnant woman is bitten by bat

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A PREGNANT woman has been bitten by a bat suspected of carrying rabies, the Ministry of Agriculture disclosed yesterday.

Sheila Wright and another woman who was helping her to transport the animal were both bitten on the hand as they tried to rescue it after it had been found in distress in Newhaven, East Sussex. Both have been vaccinated against the disease as a precaution, even though there have been only two known cases in Europe of rabies infection from a bat bite.

The bat had most likely reached Britain from the Continent, blown by winds or possibly carried in a container to an English port. Keith Meldrum, Chief Veterinary Officer, said yesterday. But he could not rule out the possibility that it had contracted rabies in Britain.

The Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*) was found on its own on May 30, hanging from the wall of a building in the town. It was behaving oddly, was apparently unable to fly, and attempted to bite



Sheila Wright, bitten by a Daubenton's bat

people when they approached. Investigations by ministry scientists have failed to find any other bats of the same species in the vicinity, or any other person who has been bitten.

The bat, now dead, was passed on to the Central Veterinary Laboratory on June 3 and tested positive to an initial rabies antibody test. It must undergo three further tests before the disease can be definitely confirmed and final results are not expected to be known until June 28. If confirmed, this will be the first known case of this strain of rabies being found in Britain. Mr Meldrum said.



The strain is different from that suffered by dogs, foxes or other pets, and there are no known cases of it being transmitted to other mammals.

There have been only two documented cases of humans dying after contracting this strain — the last in Finland in 1985, when a scientist who frequently handled bats died, said Mr Meldrum.

Mrs Wright, who is expecting her baby in ten days' time, is a member of the Sussex Bat Group. She said: "I have been told I am not much at risk and been reassured that I am OK. It has come as a shock, but I am not too worried."

Five held over IRA Docklands bombing

By STEWART TENDLER, NICHOLAS WATT AND ADRIAN LEE

FIVE men were held yesterday in South Armagh's "Bandit Country" and in London by detectives investigating the IRA lorry bomb attack on the Isle of Dogs in London.

The raids were launched by anti-terrorist detectives hunting for the gang which built and delivered the low-loader lorry which hid the one-ton bomb. The device, planted on February 10, killed two men and signalled the end of the IRA ceasefire.

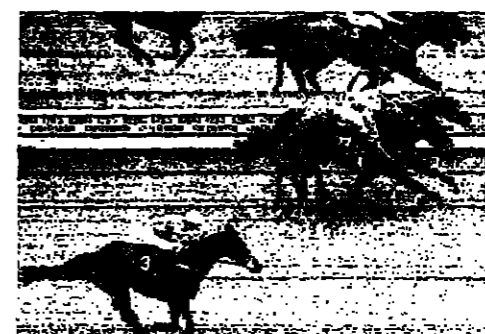
Yesterday detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch and the RUC were covered by scores of troops as they carried out dawn raids on addresses in the terrorist stronghold of Forkhill, South Armagh. The operation was described as one of the largest since the IRA ceasefire in 1994.

Four men were arrested and flown to London for questioning in the high security wing of Paddington Green police station. They were joined by a fifth man of Irish extraction arrested at a London address. Last night detectives were also hunting a sixth man whose east London home ten minutes from South Quay was raided early yesterday. He disappeared a week ago. Detectives hope the raids will identify the secret workshop on the Ulster border where the low-loader was built with parts from other vehicles.

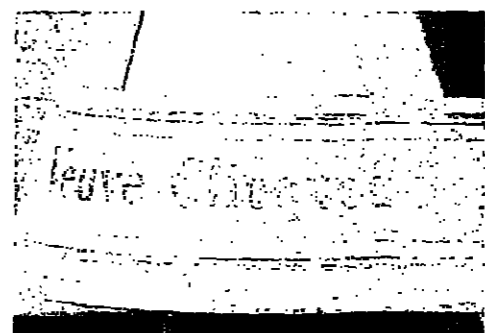
The operation was started by the Yard a month ago and led to Ulster. Fresh leads brought the investigators back to London and new clues. Senior ministers were warned the raids were being planned because of the tension surrounding peace talks next week.

Last night Sinn Fein accused the Government of trying to appease Unionists and Conservative backbenchers by "saturating" South Armagh with troops. Pat McNamee, Sinn Fein's newly elected member of the forum for Newry and Armagh, said: "The arrest of four people in South Armagh this morning has been used as an excuse to saturate the whole county with British troops. The people of Armagh see the actions of the British Government and its army today as another act of provocation."

Postal raid, and ceasefire hopes, page 2



WINNER BY A HEAD



WINNER BY A NECK

THE DRAKE, BROM	8 June
THE GROSVENOR HOUSE ANTIQUE FAIR	13-22 June
ROYAL ASCOT	18-21 June
END CORNHILL TEST MATCH V INDIA, LORD'S	20-24 June
WIMBLEDON TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS	24 June-7 July
ROUND THE ISLAND RACE, ISLE OF WIGHT	29 June
VEUVE CLICQUOT GOLD CUP POLO, GOWDAPARK	29 June-1 July
HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA	3-7 July
HAMPTON COURT PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW	9-14 July
BRITISH GRAND PRIX, SILVERSTONE	14 July



Veve Clicquot

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Businessman who caught burglar is cleared of assault

By CAROL MIOGLEY

A BUSINESSMAN who caught and bound a burglar he found stealing from his warehouse was cleared of false imprisonment and assault yesterday.

A jury took less than 20 minutes to decide that Nick Rodwell, 46, had not behaved unreasonably while carrying out a citizen's arrest on Christopher Love, who suffered a bloody nose and black eye in the scuffle. Three of Mr Rodwell's employees who helped to detain Love, 26, were also found not guilty.

After delivery of their verdict, members of the jury waited outside court to shake the men's hands and offer to buy them a drink. If the defendants had been found guilty they could have faced prison sentences of up to four years.

Mr Rodwell denounced the case, estimated to have cost about £230,000, as a waste of public money. "I knew I was innocent and I believe in justice. At the beginning of the trial they offered me a deal where, if I pleaded guilty to actual bodily harm, I would be let off with a fine. But I refused because I wanted to clear my name and my family's name."

He said he had been driven to take direct action because a string of 30 break-ins within a



Love given community service for burglary

year was crippling his business in Kettering, Northamptonshire. He had lost £20,000 of stock, including training shoes, tea sets and hi-fis.

"This has destroyed me and put a great deal of strain on my family," said Mr Rodwell. A father of five who had never been arrested before, "I have lost two shops and thousands of pounds of stock and been through ten months of hell."

"There has been a lot of personal pressure. For months people have been hearing me as being described as someone who imprisoned a man and beat him up. Nothing was written about the burglar."

"It has taken me seven years to build up this business. I built it up from nothing — now

a burglar has taken two shops away from me.

"I asked the police to help to protect my business, but they said they didn't have the manpower. I had no choice but to do something about it. Christopher Love has admitted stealing from me and he gets 120 hours' community service. He's now working in a charity shop in town."

Northampton Crown Court was told that Mr Rodwell and his workers, Chris Baxter, 31, Greg Hill, 36, and Malcolm Deal, 41, had caught Love climbing through a window at the Kettering Auctions warehouse in August last year. Love had previously worked for Mr Rodwell. They tied his hands behind his back and held him captive for nearly three hours, during which they took him to a bedsit and made him hand over stock stolen in previous burglaries.

Mr Rodwell then flagged down a police car. One of the policemen said: "Well done. We have been looking for him for a year." But when they saw Love's hands were tied and his face was bloody and swollen they arrested Mr Rodwell.

Love, who admitted burglary, had 14 previous convictions for burglary and 19 for theft. He claimed that Mr Rodwell punched and hit him with a cricket bat, which Mr Rodwell denied.

"I feel I was treated very badly by the police," Mr Rodwell said. "When they arrested me I had to wear a disposable suit and I was locked up for 23 hours." He is now considering whether to take legal action against the police.

The CPS is understood to have proceeded with the case because violence was threatened, the incident was premeditated and it was carried out by a group with a ringleader. A spokeswoman said that if someone made a citizen's arrest they should telephone the police immediately.



Nick Rodwell thanking jurors after his acquittal

Girl, 3, locked in car as temperature reaches record 32C

By EMMA WILKINS AND KYLE SMITH

A CHILD left sweltering in a locked car while her mother went shopping was rescued by a policewoman who squeezed through the partly open sunroof.

The distressed child was crying for her mother, but when the woman was found she did not thank the officer. WPC Debbie Forbes, 31, who was called to the car at Newbury, Berkshire, by a worried member of the public, unlocked a door from inside.

She said: "The poor little girl was really baking. She had gone a strange colour, she was crying and screaming 'Mummy'. Her hair was wet and she was covered in sweat."

WPC Forbes, who has three children, took the girl to a café for a cold drink before tracing the mother. "I didn't even get a thank-you from the mum," she said. The policewoman told her that if the RSPCA had been called to a dog in similar circumstances, "her car window would have been smashed and her dog would have been removed".

In Somerset, a three-month-old girl suffered serious sunburn when her grandfather took her for a walk in an open pram. Aisle McCarthy was recovering at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, from heat blisters after her grandfather had pushed her for 40 minutes around a park in Keynsham.

Doctors said that she would recover with minimal scarring

after they treated her with antibiotics to protect her from infection. They secured her arms so that she would not be able to pick at her blisters.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday — and this year — was 32.4C (90F) in Gravesend, Kent. That followed national highs of 28C (82F) on Wednesday and 31C (88F) on Thursday, also at Gravesend.

The weekend promises slight relief, with forecasts by the London Weather Centre of possible thunderstorms and lower temperatures of 23-24C today and tomorrow.

London Ambulance Service announced that the volume of emergency calls it received rose 27 per cent above normal, to 2,818 from an average of 2,200.

"The 600 extra calls seem to be down to the weather," said a spokesman.

Eight teenage girls collapsed from heat exhaustion while participating in an athletic event and were taken to hospital in Walthamstow, London. They were recovering at Whipps Cross Hospital.

It was so hot that the rail system added one more excuse for late trains to its repertoire. Travellers on the Great Western line from Paddington station sweated out delays of up to an hour after train tracks expanded in the heat.

Forecast, page 24

Student in fumes death was killed unlawfully

By PAUL WILKINSON

A STUDENT who died from carbon monoxide fumes from a gas boiler as she slept in her digs was unlawfully killed, an inquest jury decided yesterday.

Anne Brennan, 19, was found dead in her bedsit directly above the basement room where the boiler had been kept running by Graham Williams, the landlord, despite twice being condemned by British Gas engineers. Geoffrey Burt, the Durham Coroner, accused Mr Williams of a "cavalier" attitude towards safety and maintenance regulations.

The inquest had heard that police investigating the death in the house she shared with eight other students in Durham found gaps in the floorboards of Miss Brennan's room. Other occupants had complained to Mr Williams about fumes, and on the day she died one student was overcome and taken to hospital.

Health and Safety officials said Mr Williams had ignored two prohibition notices and other advice on ventilation in the property where Miss Brennan, a second-year English student at Durham University, died last October. It had been shutdown by technicians only to be discovered running again later.

After the hearing Detective Superintendent David Grey said he would be pressing for a prosecution.



The Queen at Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts

McCartney gives Her Majesty a glimpse of fame

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE man in the smart grey suit and short haircut who welcomed the Queen to Liverpool yesterday was barely recognisable as the mop-topped pop idol who went to Buckingham Palace for his MBE in 1965, and put about the false rumour that he had smoked pot in the waiting room to calm his nerves.

Paul McCartney had returned to his home city, which gave birth to the Beatles, to conduct the Queen around his most treasured project, the conversion of his old secondary school, which he attended with George Harrison, into the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. The former Sixties rebel had himself been converted, leading students and staff in three cheers for the Queen after she formally opened the school.

McCartney last met the Queen 14 years ago when the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra played a concert of Beatles music at the Albert Hall. The Queen later became one of the first of more than 2,000 people who made a personal donation to help to establish the £15 million college.

When the Beatles had their first hit, she failed to succumb to the mania that reduced the entire teenage population to screaming, ecstatic jelly. Yesterday she saw 15 students performing in a contemporary dance studio, listened to one of the institute's own rock bands, The Salvation, perform one of its compositions,



McCartney in 1965, the year he was made MBE

and listened to a student, Julie Thompson, 22, record a new song, *Perfect World*.

Later, in the Paul McCartney auditorium, monarch and founder listened to a choir sing a medley of Stephen Sondheim show-tunes, the Beatles' own song *Blackbird* from their White Album, and a song from the musical *Fame* entitled *I Feel The Body Electric*. The Queen then mounted the stage, but restricted herself to unveiling a plaque and signing the visitors' book.

"She was very impressed; she was very entertained by all of it," McCartney said later, brushing aside rumours that he would shortly be awarded a knighthood. "It's too embarrassing to think about, isn't it? I don't know anything about it," the 25th richest person in Britain said.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Golfers play with spy in the sky

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

CADDIES and their legendary advice are at risk from a course tipster with a somewhat wider view. Satellite navigation systems are being introduced to Britain as golfers' aids.

While many players might prefer the camaraderie of the traditional caddy with his local knowledge and distance-gauging skills, players in the United States are already putting their faith in cars with computerised, colour displays that resemble aircraft cockpits. The system pinpoints the location of the cart and the golfer before calculating the distance to the hole — and recommending the appropriate club. Trimble Navigation, which makes the devices based in Hook, Hampshire, said yesterday that the system also delivers tips on how to play the shot, and the location of hazards.

The aids are being tested on British links this summer. Peter Range, a spokesman for the company, pointed out another advantage: "Clubs want to use it to monitor slow play. If a cart has been out four hours and is only on the 12th hole, you can send a computer message."

Signals from 24 US military spacecraft are picked up by receivers which work out the location of the buggy relative to the clubhouse, to an accuracy of several centimetres.

David Rickman, rule secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in St Andrews, and the sport's governing body, said that the devices were not in line with rule 14-3, barring artificial devices and unusual equipment: "Unless the rules are abided by, a person is not really playing a round of golf."

Mr Range did not expect golfers to try to break rules during competitions, but said: "They can use satellite navigation systems and get measurements in advance of the competition."

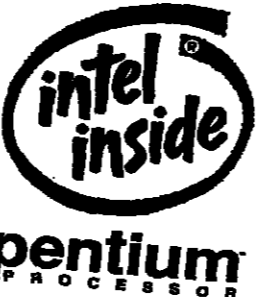
It does not make a golfer more talented, of course. So the next development is for satellites to pinpoint lost balls.

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هكذا من الأصل

Football followers set big test for transport

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL and ferry companies will today put to the test up to two years of planning for Euro 96 as the first wave of an estimated 500,000 foreign fans arrives in England.

Security at Channel ports and the Eurotunnel terminal at Folkestone was being stepped up. All 2,150 British Transport Police officers and staff will be on duty throughout the three-week tournament. Hundreds of coaches from supporters' clubs

from as far away as Croatia will disgorge from ferries and Le Shuttle trains on to the roads of Kent, bound for the stadiums of the Midlands and the North.

The main ferry operators are demanding a £500 "good behaviour" bond from each coach and are avoiding taking bookings on the same ferry from supporters' clubs from different countries to avoid national clashes. The bookings are also being concentrated on the 75-minute Calais to Dover crossing to reduce the time that fans can spend

at the bar. "The whole policy is to stop any trouble happening in the first place," said a spokesman for P & O European Ferries.

If drunken supporters get out of control, the ship's crew will restrain them in secure metal cages used for storing duty free goods below the car deck goods, the spokesman said. Plastic handcuffs are not carried on ferries.

Rail operators will be laying on dozens of extra services to cope with the movement of one and a half million spectators expected at the

matches. Information on ticket sales from the Football Association has helped to identify the largest movements of spectators, a BR spokesman said.

"For example, there is a huge contingent of Italian supporters living in Buckinghamshire, where there was an Italian prisoner-of-war camp during the war. We have made sure that all trains serving the Italian games in Liverpool and Manchester will stop at Milton Keynes to allow the supporters to use connecting trains from places

like Leighton Buzzard." The unmanned halt of Alsager — the closest station to the Italian team training ground outside Stoke — is also expected to be the focus of intense Latin interest.

Eight major stations — London Euston, Birmingham New Street, Manchester Piccadilly, Leeds City, Liverpool Lime Street, Nottingham, Newcastle and Sheffield — will stay open all night on match days. Staff will turn a blind eye to fans "dossing" on the concourses, Mr Marshall said. On trains serving

match venues, inspectors have been told to waive penalties for fans without tickets. "What we are trying to do is make things as user-friendly as possible to take out of the equation situations that tend to lead to trouble," he said. "If we have to have bans on alcohol we will, but we really don't want to inconvenience our other non-football passengers. The main aim is to prevent trouble by stopping fans taking alcohol on to the trains in the first place."

Preview, pages 46-48
1996 and all that, Magazine

Soho declares a no-go zone for Euro 96

By RAGWALD MARTEL AND BILL FROST

THE West End of London, traditional mecca for football fans after a big game at Wembley, was battering the hatches last night and preparing to repel all Euro 96 boarders.

The prospect of a cash register bonanza has left pub landlords, restaurateurs and even the capital's ladies of the night seriously underwhelmed. All agreed that the risk of drunken violence far outweighed any financial benefit the tournament may yield.

Cards left by prostitutes in telephone boxes advertised their services but carried a warning in felt-tip pen: "No football fans (thank you)."

While a handful of Swiss supporters paraded on mineral water at the edge of Soho's clip-joint zone, peep show barons and strip-club proprietors were briefing bouncers that football fans were not to be allowed in.

At the Revue Bar in the heart of Soho, the huge man on the door said that the fans should look elsewhere for fun tonight. "I am not coming in myself, too much bother. But I've told my lads to keep them out — I don't want no violence or vomit in my club. Next week, when the Jocks come down, I am closing. So will all the other hostess bars."

The Metropolitan Police Euro 96 task force has already saturated Soho and the rest of the West End in anticipation of trouble tonight. However, the Swiss are not considered a high "violence potential" risk. "Let's face it, they are not exactly the most volatile

people in the world are they," a police source said. "However, the Dutch and the Germans are a different kettle of fish altogether."

Soho's finest will make no such careful distinction. A siege mentality is already in place. Norman Balon, landlord of the celebrated Coach and Horses pub, said: "My business booms every night and I certainly don't want that lot. It would be marvellous if for a change they stayed away from Soho."

Mr Balon, who describes himself as "London's rudest landlord", warned football supporters of any persuasion to steer clear. "I'll give them one drink if they are polite. If not, they are out — sharpish."

Noel Botham, landlord of the French House, agreed. He is operating a strict anti-football policy and has hired an extra doorman. He said he would be very pleased "not to make a penny" out of Euro 96.

The Sports Café, just off the Haymarket, is ready to welcome fans. However, all the tables were booked two and a half months ago and bouncers are on the touchline just in case of a pitch invasion.

At the Swiss Bistro, off Leicester Square, the away fans were puzzled by the fears their presence had aroused. One young woman draped in her national flag said that Britain was unwelcoming.

Her friend sipped mineral water and agreed: "We Swiss do not get drunk and wreck bars, go to peep shows or use prostitutes. Their worry is foolish and insulting."



Swiss fans in Leicester Square yesterday. They accused Britain of being unwelcoming to foreign supporters

TV coverage outstrips World Cup

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
AND JOHN GOODBODY

THE televising of Euro 96 will be the biggest outside broadcast for domestic television in more than a decade.

The championship will be televised in 194 countries, six more than took coverage of the 1994 World Cup in the United States. In Britain the tournament will receive more than 100 hours of terrestrial television coverage. The ratings battle will pitch the BBC's team of Desmond Lynam, John Motson and

Jimmy Hill against ITV's Bob Wilson, Brian Moore and Ron Atkinson.

ITV has also signed the unlikely double act of Alex Ferguson, manager of Manchester United, and Kevin Keegan, manager of Newcastle United, to provide analysis. Other members of its team include Glenn Hoddle, John Barnes, Jack Charlton and Ian St John.

The BBC's most exotic signing is Round Gullit, Chelsea's player-manager who used to inspire the Dutch. Gary Lineker will make his

debut as a main television presenter. Other members of the BBC squad include the commentator Barry Davies and David Pleat, the Sheffield Wednesday manager.

Although the two channels are alternating their coverage of matches in the early stages of the competition, they will be going head-to-head later on. They will be co-operating, however, as the host broadcasters for the rest of the world, providing the television facilities and personnel to help 4,000 foreign commentators and technical

staff. There will be a minimum of 17 cameras at each of the eight grounds staging matches to meet the increasingly sophisticated demands of television viewers.

The BBC has been accused of being anti-patriotic in choosing Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* as its theme tune. In a neat twist, the German broadcaster ZDF has chosen *Don't Look Back in Anger* by the football-loving Britpop band from Manchester, Oasis, to herald its coverage. ITV is playing it safe with Sir Hubert Parry's *Jerusalem*.

THE TIMES ON MONDAY



Top writers on the family

Starting on Monday, *The Times* celebrates family life in modern Britain.

In a new series, *Family Life, Personality Speaking*, read Bel Mooney on the joy of family, Libby Purves on the dangers when parents lose touch with their children and Magnus Linklater on a manic depressive son. On Tuesday Valerie Grove writes in praise of teenagers, Alice Thomas Ellis on sibling rivalry and Jean Wyndham on the effects on children when a father walks out.



Second Degree

More and more graduates now go on to do taught masters' degrees.

All next week, *The Times* again publishes its unique guide to vacancies on thousands of postgraduate courses starting in September at Britain's universities.

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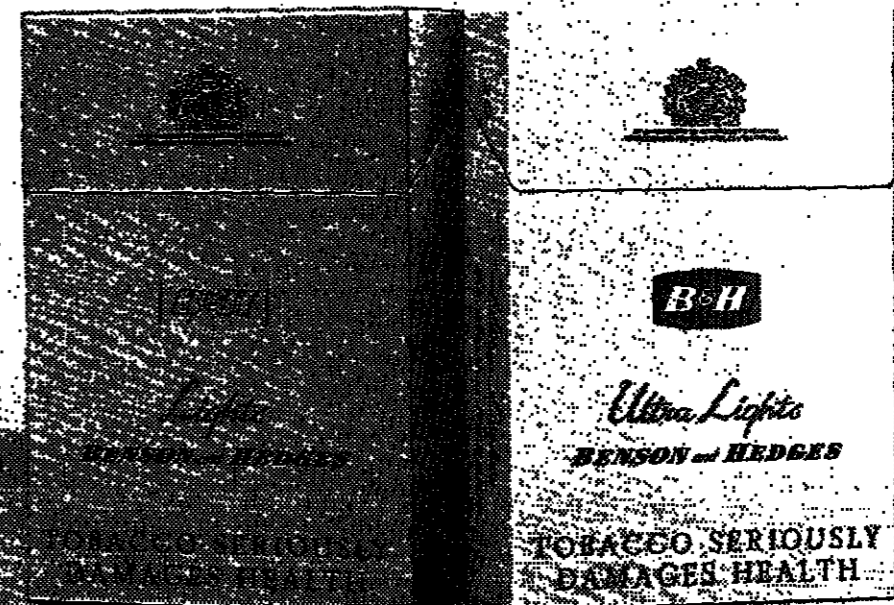
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THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 8 1996

Cliff rescue helicopter hovers 10ft from gorge

By Emma Wilkins

AN RAF helicopter crew rescued a woman from deep inside Cheddar Gorge after the pilot flew within feet of the cliff face in darkness. In a three-hour mission Flight Lieutenant Mark Dennis, 35, flew 100ft down into the gorge and held his position with the tip of the craft's blades just 10ft from the side.

As the helicopter hovered, an RAF winchman was lowered 200ft down — close to the maximum winch extension of 250ft — to pull the 22-year-old woman to safety.

The scene of the rescue was illuminated by the searchlights of a police helicopter, which held its position above the RAF Sea King.

"It was a very difficult operation," said Flight Lieutenant Dennis, from Brighton. "The gorge is very narrow and steep-sided and we usually keep well away from it. Normally in helicopter rescues we have the sea on one side but this time we were in a totally confined space."

"I kept a close watch out of the right side of the helicopter and the other pilot out of the left as the rotor blades were just 10ft from the cliff sides."

"It was unusual to have another aircraft working alongside but it was a great success," he added.

The rescue began just after 9pm on Thursday when a woman telephoned Avon and Somerset police to say a woman had fallen down the cliff face. Officers called to the scene were able to hear the woman shouting but could not see her because it was dark.

A police helicopter with thermal-imaging equipment was sent to the gorge where the crew located the woman. The helicopter does not have a winch so the Sea King was



Doreen Hayes waits for the verdict during the inspection by councillors yesterday. They chose to ignore advice that it should be destroyed

Garden in a bog survives planners' wrath

By Russell Jenkins

A WOMAN who spent ten years transforming an acre of bog land into a showpiece garden won her battle to prevent it from being ploughed back into farmland yesterday.

Doreen Hayes, 60, was told by East Devon council that she had breached regulations when she cultivated the

garden in Branscombe without planning permission.

After a lengthy site visit, councillors granted permission for the change of use by five votes to one on condition that she does not develop it any further. Ms Hayes, who had sobbed throughout the debate, said: "I am overjoyed it has gone through. I am quite happy with the condition they

have imposed because I never intended to do anything more."

The garden contains thousands of flowers, four ponds, wildfowl and doves. The controversy arose when an occasional resident complained to the council that the garden had been developed on a plot still classed as agricultural land.

Ms Hayes, a former air hostess,

claimed that the authority knew about her project soon after she bought the land. "A man from East Devon council came along to have a look, but did not mention planning permission," she said.

She applied for planning permission after the complaint but officials recommended refusal, saying the garden was an intrusive feature.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE LAWSON DIET

When I first met Nigel he was 44, feisty and fat. Later I got the hang of the way he organised his life, which was, in essence, based on set meal times...

Therese Lawson



The principal drawback to dieting is financial. I lost 12in around the waist and 2in around the neck. So there is nothing for it but to buy a whole new set of clothes...

Nigel Lawson

The lean times of Nigel Lawson, plus the recipes that helped him to achieve them — in style. The Sunday Times tomorrow

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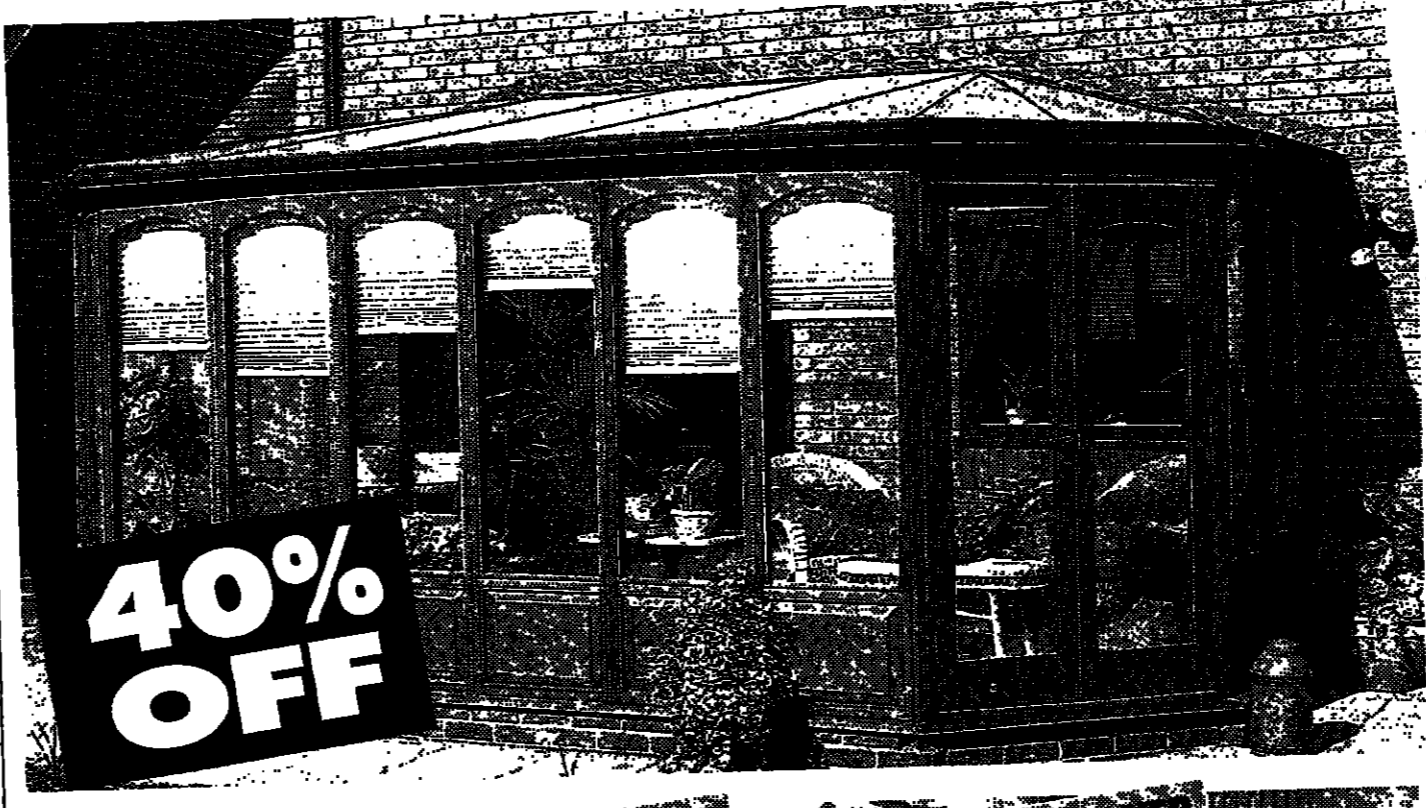
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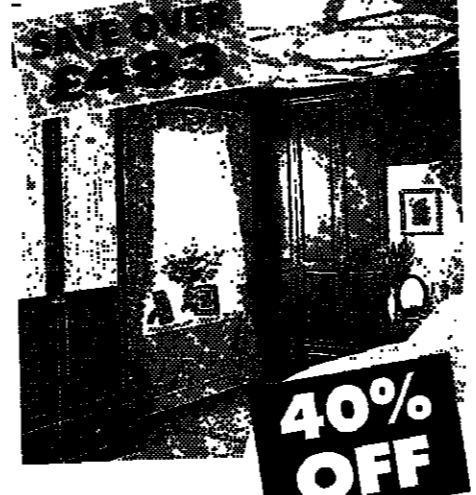
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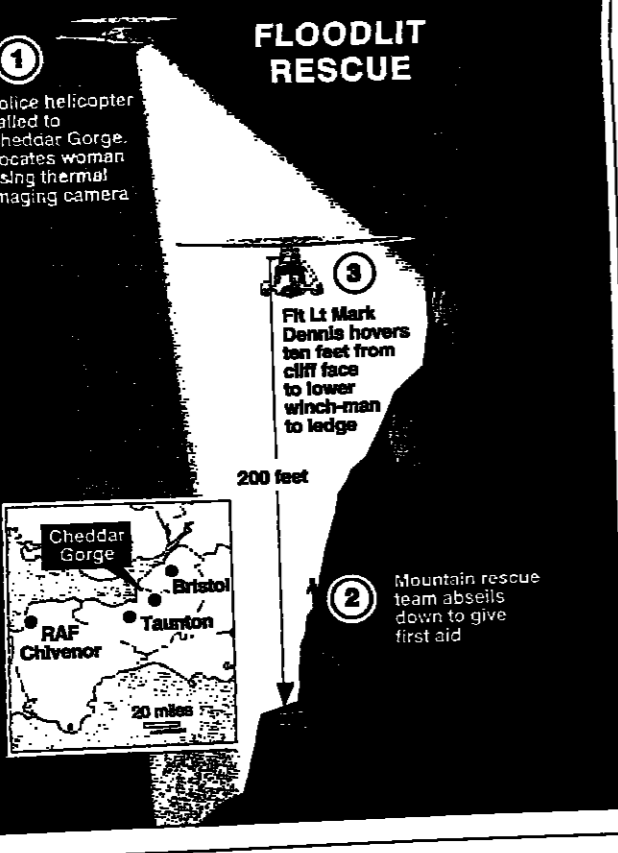


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By JILL SHERMAN AND DAVID CHARTER

هكذا من الأصل

Birt promises to lead BBC into the next millennium

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JOHN BIRT, the BBC Director-General, announced yesterday that he is to stay at the corporation until 2000, quashing speculation that he might leave at the end of his five-year contract next year.

Mr Birt was unveiling a reorganisation of the BBC that will fully separate programme-making from its broadcasting role. He also announced a series of senior management changes.

Matthew Bannister, the controller of Radio 1, will become director of radio, in charge of all the BBC's radio output and filling the shoes of Liz Forgan, who resigned as managing director of network radio in April. Mr Bannister, who has successfully modernised Radio 1's "Smashie and Nicey" image of dated DJs, will combine his new role with his existing post.

Michael Green, controller of Radio 4, is to leave the BBC. Mr Green oversaw a number of hotly debated changes at Radio 4, including moving *Woman's Hour* to the mornings and introducing *Anderson Country*, which was dropped after a wave of protests. He said yesterday that he had wanted to leave the BBC for some months, but had agreed to stand in for Ms Forgan.

Mr Birt, at present earning £265,000 a year, said he was

honoured to continue leading the BBC into 2000, but would not reveal how much he would be paid for the task. He said that the restructuring was intended to streamline the corporation and help it to reduce costs by 20 per cent over five years. There were bound to be job losses.

Mr Birt added that the changes, which also include the creation of a single national and international news operation, would help the BBC to meet the challenge of introducing digital broadcasting.

He conceded, however, that the changes would represent a second big upheaval at the BBC, which introduced

sweeping management reforms three years ago under Producer Choice. These cut the workforce by 5,000 to 20,000.

Uncertainty hangs over the future of Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1. He is expected to take one of two newly created positions: director of television or director of programmes.

Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC Television, will become chief executive of BBC Broadcasting and BBC Radio will lose its separate identity. It will be subsumed into the broadcasting division — a move seen by many as downgrading its status.

Jocelyn Hay of the consumer group, the Voice of the Listener and Viewer, said she was concerned that radio would no longer be represented individually on the BBC's top decision-making board. "This diminishes the rights of the radio audience. There is also a concern about the increasing emphasis on the commercial viability of programmes," she said.

John Tusa, former head of the BBC World Service and now managing director of the Barbican centre, said he was worried about the way the restructuring appeared to bring World Service radio more closely under the responsibility of the domestic services.



Bannister: successfully modernised Radio 1



John Birt, right, with BBC executives, introducing the reforms yesterday

Family tells how Glyn Worsnip joked to the end

By LIN JENKINS

FRIENDS and colleagues of the former *That's Life* presenter Glyn Worsnip paid tribute yesterday after his death from a crippling brain disease. Worsnip, 57, spent nine years battling against cerebellar ataxia, which had cut short his career by affecting his movement and speech.

Esther Rantzen, who worked with him on the BBC television consumer programme, said: "All Glyn's friends will treasure their memories of his brilliance and his enduring courage."

Radio provided an outlet for his talents in the early days of his illness. When he found all broadcasting impossible, he turned to programme research, wrote his autobiography, *Up the Down Escalator*, and had a newspaper column. In 1991, when he was wheelchair-bound, he moved into a home for the disabled after he felt he had become a burden on Jo and Elinor, his wife and daughter.

Mrs Worsnip and his friend David Goodland were at his bedside when he died. His brother Hugh said: "He kept on laughing and joking right to the end. He could hardly speak but he was still trying to crack jokes."

"He did complain from time to time and in his darkest moments he talked about ending it all. But he always clung on to life because he enjoyed it so much. He was an astonishingly courageous man and that is how everyone will



Worsnip: TV career cut short by brain disease

remember him." Rantzen, who worked with Worsnip for the eight years after he joined *That's Life* in 1976, said that he was one of the programme's most popular presenters. "His sharp sense of humour, wicked ear for mimicry and enormous charm delighted our viewers."

"One of his last programmes was a deeply moving and illuminating edition of *Horizon* about the ignorance surrounding illnesses like his affecting the brain."

She first met him when she was at Oxford University: "I brought him into *That's Life* because I knew his talent and I loved his company."

"His picture is on my office wall. My thoughts and deepest sympathies are with his family."

Obituary, page 23

Dean casts light on royal Christmas

By EMMA WILKINS AND JOHN VINCENT

A LETTER revealing the unique strains of being a guest at a royal house party in the 1920s is to be auctioned next week.

The Dean of St Albans, the Very Rev Edward Henderson, was staying with George V and Queen Mary at Sandringham for Christmas in 1927 when he wrote home to his wife Sybil. His main worries were that the Queen would find his sermon boring and that he should remember how to pronounce Ma'am, to rhyme with jam.

The letter begins with an account of a tea party at which Princess Elizabeth, then 20 months, impressed with her good manners. "Tea in the hall. The Queen

poured out and just when we had finished in came Princess Elizabeth, really charming indeed, and the King played with her all the time. She isn't spoilt one little bit, but sits up in her chair as straight as a die. The Queen smokes after every meal. It's all too killing and I am still finding it hard to believe I shan't (sic) wake up somewhere else.

"I've signed the K's and Q's visitors' book without making blots or writing in the wrong place, and I didn't cut myself shaving this morning — my word, I was careful... We had Evensong and Carols and I had to sit in the front pew with the Q but I am beyond feeling now, and say yes MAM and no MAM and you pronounce it just like that and don't forget it." Queen Mary had forgotten to take

any pennies for the collection and had to borrow some from a lady-in-waiting. "The Queen didn't know there was a collection and hadn't taken any money! Horror! Fortunately I had some as Lady Katherine was stung too."

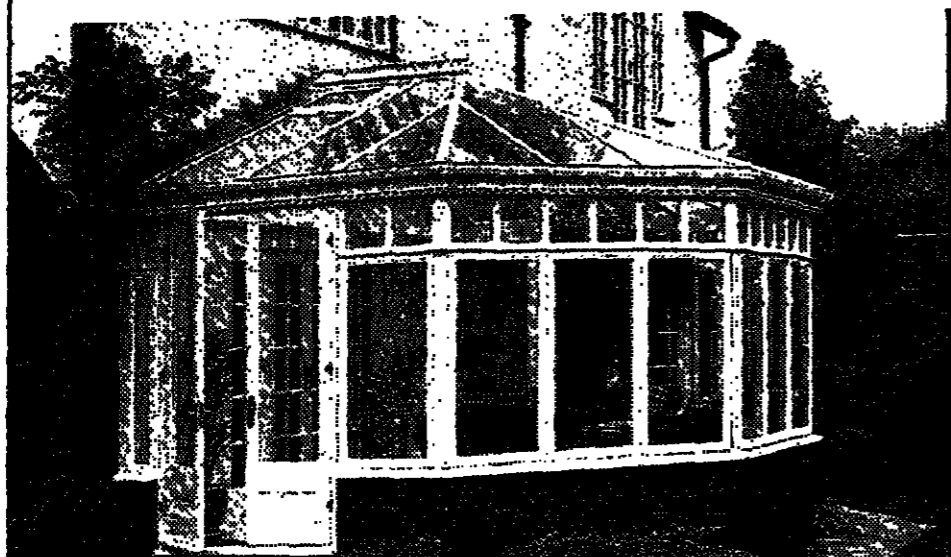
The dean was given a doll by the Queen for his six-year-old daughter Jo, which is being sold with the letter by Phillips in Edinburgh. His daughter, now Mrs Richardson, 75, remembers writing a thank-you letter beginning "Dear Queen". She said: "The doll itself is a pretty little thing, not really very interesting. But it came from the Queen and I never forgot that."

The doll, made by Simon and Halbig, has a brown mohair wig and brown eyes. It and the letter are expected to fetch £250.

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Police chief defends gun licence for Hamilton

By Stephen Farrell

THE senior police officer who rejected a call to withdraw Thomas Hamilton's firearms certificate defended his decision yesterday at the Dunblane massacre inquiry.

John Millar, a former detective superintendent, said that he believed one of his juniors had exaggerated when describing Hamilton as a scheming, devious and deceitful man who should not be trusted with guns.

Mr Millar, 57, attached a handwritten memo to Detective Sergeant Paul Hughes's report, made five years before the killings, saying that he could not recommend revoking the certificate. He said the final decision was taken by his superior, Deputy Chief Constable Douglas McMurdo, now Assistant Chief Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland.

Mr Millar, who is retired, told the inquiry at Stirling that Hamilton could still have committed the murders if the decision had been different. "If his certificate had been refused and the guns taken away from him, and he still felt the way he did at the time of the terrible tragedy, there is no doubt in my mind that he could still have got possession of guns."

In 1991 Sergeant Hughes, a child protection officer, inves-

tigated parents' allegations of assault, lack of supervision and improper photographs at one of Hamilton's summer camps. The detective suspected the youth club leader was a paedophile with latent violent tendencies. Mr Millar told the inquiry that there was no mention of guns in the complaints against Hamilton.

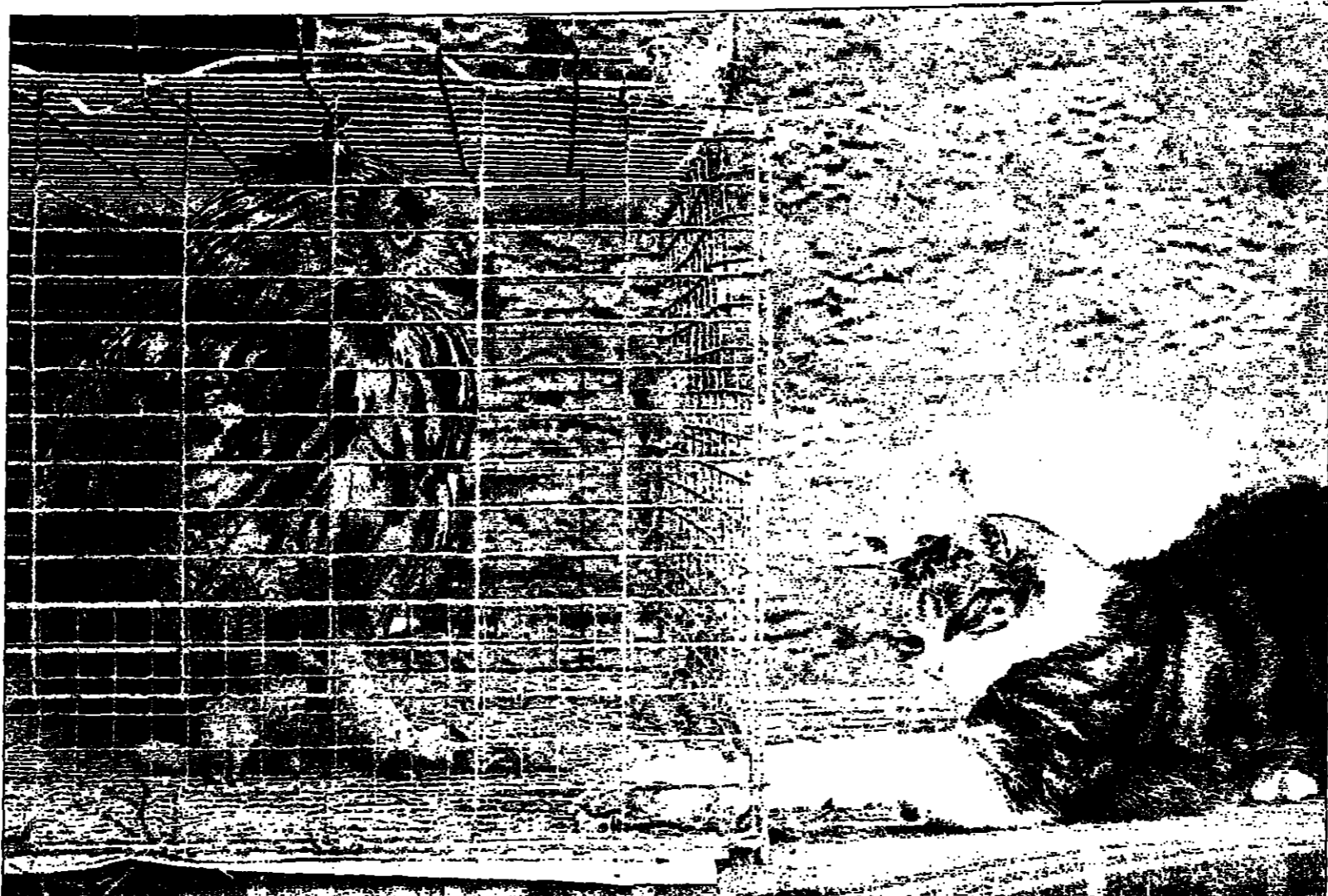
"He had often been described as an oddball and there was innuendo that he had a particular liking for young boys, but there had been no proceedings against him because there was not sufficient evidence," he said. Mr Millar, who had not met Hamilton, thought that "the wording from Sergeant Hughes possibly was exaggerated from the evidence that he had".

Laura Dunlop, counsel for the families, asked if he had thought about preventive measures. "In hindsight there possibly should have been. There was not at the time," he said.

The inquiry was shown video clips of boys exercising at Hamilton's youth clubs and summer camps. Public television monitors in the hall were turned off and the excerpts were seen only by Lord Cullen, chairman of the inquiry, and lawyers. The sound was switched off to avoid distress to relatives.

One clip showed a ten-year-old blond boy in red shorts, naked from the waist up, performing strenuous exercises. He was filmed from different angles. Other scenes showed boys performing head-over-heels rolls.

A mother said that she reported Hamilton to police and local education authorities in 1991 after he gave her a video of his camps. She was disturbed to see the camera panning along a row of boys wearing shorts and back again. She found the video "questionable", passed it to police and withdrew her son from the club.



The owl and the pussycats: Robin disdainfully ignores attempts to grab the leftover chicken: below, Sergeant Bell and his prize catch

Roast chicken dinner lures eagle owl into garden trap

By A Staff Reporter

AN ESCAPED and hungry eagle owl which had been swooping on the residents of a town in Co Durham has finally been trapped by the dedication of a housewife and a police wildlife expert.

The female owl, with a 6ft wingspan, had the people of Shotley Bridge scrambling for cover as it plunged from the night sky with its talons outstretched. Three residents had clothes torn as the owl, which they nicknamed Robin, tried to land on them and several vowed not to take their dogs out at night.

But police wildlife experts assured people there was no need for panic, emphasising that the owl was probably hungry. The bird had been ignoring staple eagle owl food such as dead chickens and

rabbits and has been pinching bacon butties and even freshly roasted chickens.

It was finally trapped by a square-framed net built by Sergeant Eddie Bell and Elizabeth Geddes, a householder. They lured it at an angle to the ground, baited with a roast chicken. A piece of string, held by Mrs Geddes from her bedroom, was attached to the top of the frame.

Sergeant Bell and Mrs Geddes waited an hour and a half for the familiar beating of mighty wings before the sergeant's patience ran out. Only Mrs Geddes witnessed the moment Robin was snared.

For Sergeant Bell, the Durham force's wildlife liaison officer, catching the bird became a personal mission. He said: "After the swan and

golden eagle it's probably the biggest bird you'll see in Britain. One or two people have been left marked with a few scratches. I'm sure its intentions are well-meaning, but it weighs about 7lb and if it hits you with its talons at a speed of 40mph then it will leave a scratch or two.

"The locals have grown very fond of her. They loved to see her circling the rooftops. I will keep hold of her until an owner comes forward. If that doesn't happen she will be well looked after at my home. I must hand it to Elizabeth, she showed great determination. Thanks to her Robin is safe and won't go hungry."

The eagle owl's usual habitat is northern Europe. Robin must have escaped from a private collection.



Bailiffs net Charlton the angler

Jack Charlton is to be prosecuted for fishing without a £15 rod licence, the Environment Agency confirmed yesterday. Mr Charlton, 60, was challenged by water bailiffs during his first outing of the fishing season at Whittle Dene reservoir, near his home in Northumberland. The case is due to go before Hexham magistrates on June 25. Mr Charlton, who has since bought a licence, has said that he will plead guilty by letter.

Titanic order

Welin Lambie, the West Midlands engineering firm that made the lifeboat-launching equipment on the *Titanic*, has received a £250,000 order for identical cast-iron davits, to be used in a Hollywood film about the disaster.

Trains collide

Four people were slightly injured when two trains collided at Newcastle upon Tyne Central Station. Both trains were travelling at less than 20mph and neither was damaged. Rail services were disrupted until the afternoon.

Worker crushed

A Rover maintenance engineer, Colin Buckland, 47, was crushed under a five-ton machine, which he was trying to dismantle himself to save costs, an Oxford inquest was told. Verdict: accident.

Conran divorce

The 33-year marriage of the designer Sir Terence Conran, 64, and Caroline, 56, a journalist, was ended in the London divorce courts. Lady Conran was granted an uncontested decree nisi.

Fire strikes off

Essex fire crews called off three nine-hour strikes over £1.3 million budget cuts. The first had been due on Monday. The county council has offered to recruit 40 more firefighters this year at a cost of £600,000.

Beds of nails

Council gardeners in Bournemouth have been forced to nail plant roots into the ground to stop an outbreak of shrub thefts in the resort's parks. One flowerbed was cleared of 50 azaleas.



Millar: thought officer's warning "exaggerated"

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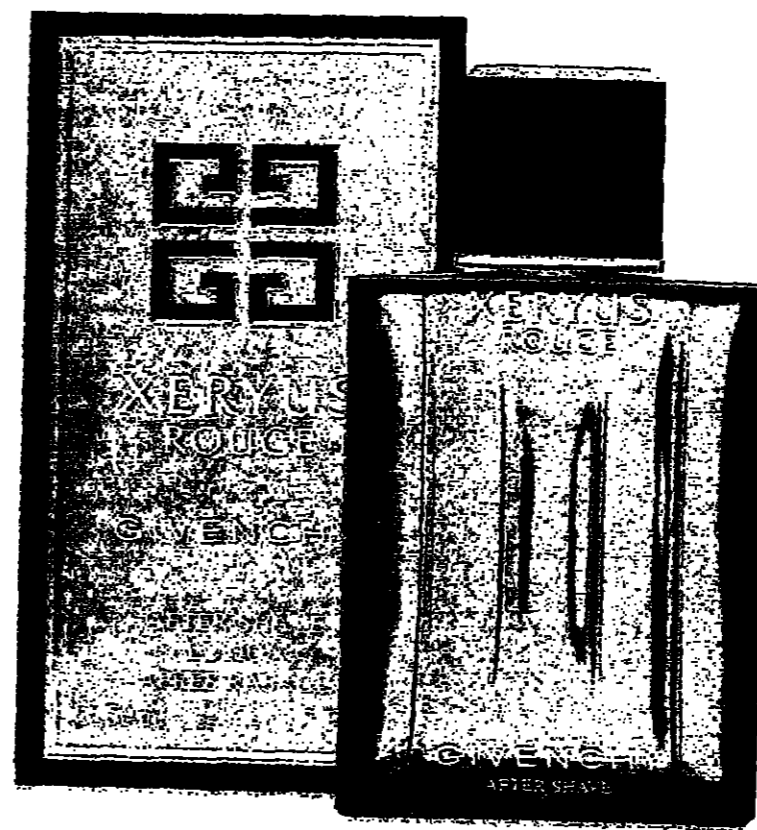
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Carey's evangelical adviser once gave his wife a black eye

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE senior evangelical adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury once had a violent relationship with his wife. At one point, the marriage of Canon Michael Green became so heated that he suffered a broken tooth and Rosemary Green went to a vestry meeting with a black eye.

The couple, who are close friends of Dr George Carey and his wife, sought counselling because they knew that a divorce would end Canon Green's credibility as an evangelist. Their marriage had since been "gloriously sorted out", he said.

In the latest issue of the *Anglican Journal*, the newspaper of the Anglican Church of Canada, where Canon Green taught for five years, the couple describe how their marriage appeared likely to disintegrate under the pressures of work. He said that his regular overseas tours when rector of St Aldate's, Oxford, in the late 1970s distanced him from his wife, who had "a very violent temper".

They were married in 1957, the year he was ordained, and their first three years were good. That changed after the birth of their first child and his transfer to the London College

of Divinity, now St John's College in Nottingham.

When he was at St Aldate's, where he achieved near-cult status among student Christians, the couple experienced "a period of considerable difficulty". Canon Green, who was at a conference with his wife in Lancashire yesterday, said: "There was violence there. I would be precipitated. I would not initiate it, but I would respond to it. It doesn't fill me

Why Worlock was told to go

Derek Worlock was once ordered out of Lambeth Palace by an Archbishop of Canterbury with the words: "Get out of here! You Roman Catholics have no rights here." The junior priest who was to become Archbishop of Liverpool, and who died in February, had upset the Most Rev Geoffrey Fisher, archbishop for 1945-1961, by bringing an "unwelcome message" from his Catholic counterpart, Dr George Carey, the present Archbishop of Canterbury, told the story yesterday at a conference to illustrate the "magnificent strides" in ecumenism since then.

with any sense of pride at all. I shouldn't have done that."

Mrs Green, 64, whose pastoral skills are highly regarded in the Church, said her first year at Oxford was hard and she felt an explosion of anger towards her husband. Friends encouraged them to seek counselling and she accepted that her attitude of "because I've been hurt, I have a right to be angry" was not healthy. She recalled the time as "pushing away a heavy black lid so the Holy Spirit could go deep down into the past hurts and, painful though it was, bring healing".

In 1987 they moved to Vancouver for five years, and in 1992 were invited back to England by Dr Carey to head his evangelism initiative, Springboard, with the Right Rev Michael Marshall.

In an interview with the *Church Times*, Canon Green said that he and his wife were stronger for their experience. "If anyone thinks we have a dodgy marriage now, they don't know us," he said. Their marital difficulties became public when Mrs Green mentioned them during a course she was leading in Canada.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 15



Anne Peat, one of the three women among the 30 preachers on the shortlist

Shortlist chosen from more than 250 preachers

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THIRTY preachers, including three women and one Salvation Army captain, have been shortlisted for the second Preacher of the Year award, organised by the College of Preachers and sponsored by *The Times*.

The preachers, chosen from more than 250 entries, also include six lay preachers. The 30 semi-finalists are of a wider ecumenical mix than last year, although most are again male Anglican clergy. Four of those shortlisted — the Rev William Alford, the Rev Alex Gunn, Ian Knox and Canon John Young — were shortlisted last year. Over the summer the 30 will be visited in their churches and chapels by judges.

Five finalists will be announced in September, to take part in the final of the contest at Southwark Cathedral, London, on Wednesday, October 30, when entry will be free to all.

The 30 shortlisted sermons will be published in *The Times Book of Best Sermons* (Cassell) and the winner will receive a specially commissioned sculpture of a dove, representing the Holy Spirit.

The 30 finalists are: The Rev William Alford, Armagh; Fr Bill Anderson, Aberdeen; the Rev Mark Ashcroft, Manchester; Dr

Alan Billings, Kendal, Cumbria; the Rev Mark Branton, W Ealing, London; the Rev Chris Burkett, Northwich, Cheshire; Canon Nicholas Bury, Broadstairs, Kent; the Rev John Cook, Edinburgh; the Rev David Dickinson, Northwood, London; the Rev Richard Freeman, Eynsford, Kent; the Rev Alex Gunn, Aberfeldy, Tayside; the Rev David Heywood, Warlingham, Surrey; the Rev Jean Holyhead, High Wycombe, Bucks; Margaret Holyoake, Halesowen, W Midlands; Stuart Jenkins, Cheadle Hulme, Dr Arnold, Kettering, N Yorks; Ian Knox, Coventry; Peter Mark, Penarth, S Glam; the Rev David McLachlan, Elderslie, Strathclyde; Dr Michael Morphy, Luddenden, W Yorks; Anne Peat, Rickmansworth, Herts; Michael Pritchard, Purley, Surrey; Capt Graham Rogerson, Middlesbrough; the Rev Justyn Terry, Hyde Park, London; the Rev Bernard Thomas, Maesteg, Mid Glam; the Rev John Thompson, Dore, Sheffield; the Rev Frank Tozer, Eastbourne; the Rev C.R. Williamson, Aberdargie, Tayside; Canon Ronald Wynne, Minchinhampton, Glos; Canon John Young, York.



The joy of helping others to succeed

Clive Calver

THE disciples of Jesus once argued heatedly over which one of them would be the greatest. In reply, Jesus made the outrageous claim that "he who is the least among you — he is the greatest" (Luke ix, 48).

The statement remains astonishing today. In our climate of ferocious competition, whether in the Olympic stadium or the boardroom, we are teaching our generation how to be winners. Should England fans witness their team losing to the Swiss this afternoon, is there a remote chance that they might feel some pleasure at the success of a nation to whom we passed the game?

The suggestion that we can succeed and find fulfilment through the progress and achievement of others is anathema in our culture of individualism. To rejoice in the accomplishments of someone else involves that most testing of Christian disciplines — loving our neighbour as ourselves.

Amid the cut-throat competition of the workplace, how many of us celebrate and take pride when colleagues to whom we have passed skills suddenly surpass our own achievements? To be confident and secure enough to enjoy a sense of corporate fulfilment is appealing, yet so difficult to attain. A threat to our self-esteem, envy and even bitterness can sour the liberation that is undoubtedly to be found in releasing others into their full potential. In the

New Testament, Barnabas, the leader of the disciples in Jerusalem — whose name means "son of encouragement" — typifies the potential selflessness that Christ seeks from his followers.

When the recently converted Paul arrived in the city, he was shunned by disciples who were mistrustful of the former tyrant. Barnabas stood up for Paul when no one else would, and subsequently stepped aside to let Paul assume leadership.

Later, it was Barnabas who spotted the potential in the disciple John Mark, forgave his past failure and picked him up after Paul had lost patience with him. Paul wrote up to 13 epistles and Mark contributed a gospel. But without the selflessness of Barnabas, we might have only one half of today's New Testament.

Such self-sacrifice lies at the heart of the Christian message, whether it is the Catholic priest Maximilian Kolbe taking the place of a Jewish woman in the line-up for the gas chamber, or ourselves conveying dignity upon others by putting them first in our daily living.

Christ calls us to exchange our self-centred life for one that is lived not in our own strength, but through His spirit in us. In so doing, we are invited to lay down our lives daily for others in the home and in the workplace. □ The Rev Clive Calver is the Director General of the Evangelical Alliance UK.

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Relay kindles the Olympic spirit in US heartlands

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN BEDFORD, KENTUCKY

NEVER in Bedford's 180-year history had this tiny Kentucky town of 900, mostly fruit and tobacco farmers, received such an illustrious visitor. Not since an underground "railway" helped to send runaway slaves northwards to freedom in the 1850s had it witnessed an occasion of such magnitude.

The courthouse was freshly painted. The fire department hosed the streets. Lawns were

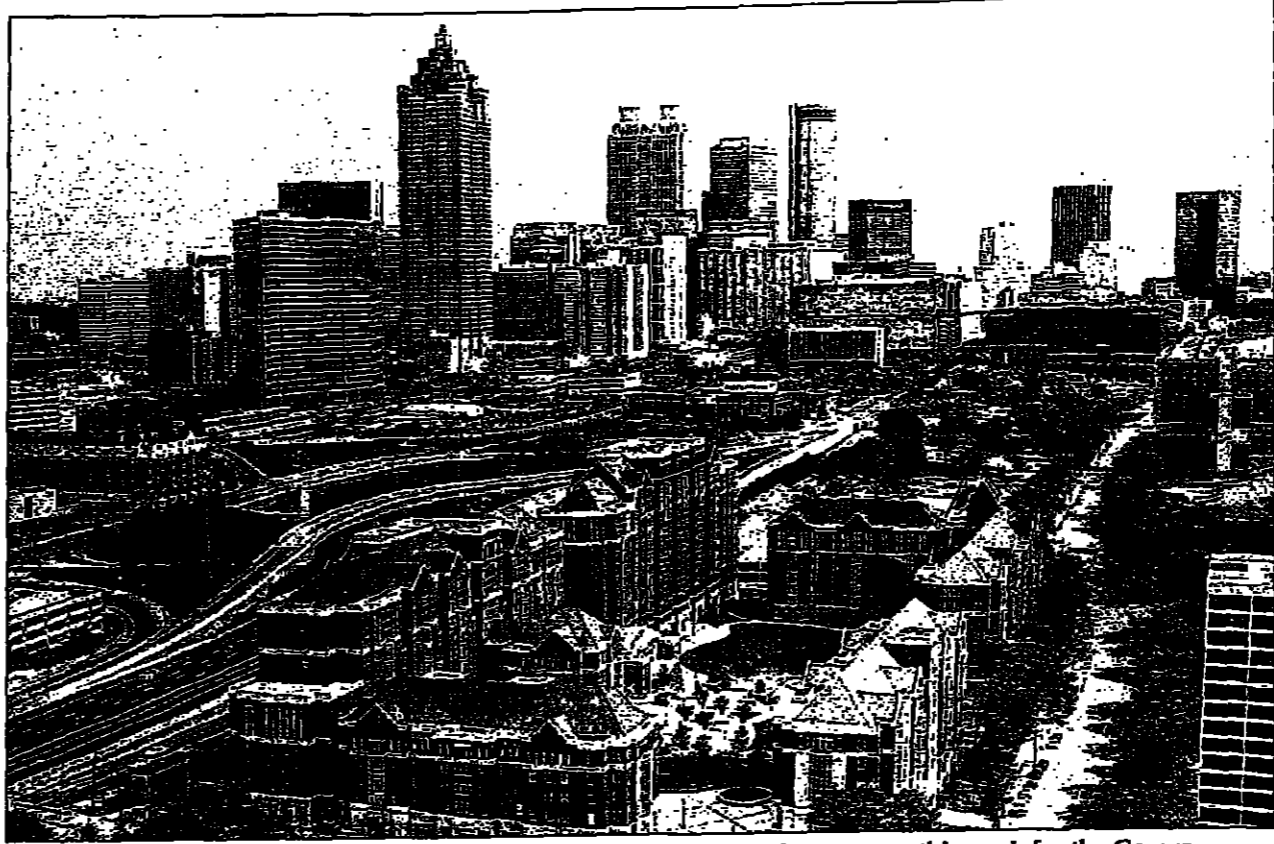
cut, flowers planted and banners draped from every building. A visit by state officials to discuss a new sewer system was postponed, and at the appointed hour the entire population packed into a picturesque town square ringed with television trucks.

Up the old highway that linked Louisville to Cincinnati before a new interstate made Bedford a backwater came a

motorcade of presidential proportions. It drove up Main Street, through Bedford's only traffic lights, and suddenly there it was — the Olympic flame — borne aloft by a local lad named Kevin Layton.

The townsfolk cheered and waved their flags as he bounded up the steps of a temporary stage and lit an Olympic mini-cauldron. The county judge read a proclamation welcoming the symbolic flame to Bedford. The Olympic committee presented the town with a certificate. Bands played, schoolchildren sang, tears flowed. "It was unbelievable, the chance of a lifetime," Kevin said.

Then the flame was off again, preceded by unimpeachable police cars and trailed by a string of motorhomes for VIPs, the media, an emergency medical team and scores of miscellaneous officials. Every half-mile a new runner took over as the caravan processed slowly northwards through



Atlanta's skyscrapers tower above the Olympic village as the city prepares this week for the Games

heartland America to a rapturous late-night welcome on Cincinnati's riverfront. In ancient Greece, runners with torches were dispatched to proclaim a truce for the Games among warring city states. Two millennia later,

the organisers of July's Atlanta Olympics have transformed that simple idea into the world's biggest relay. In April the flame was flown from Greece to Los Angeles in a brand-new chartered plane. A helicopter ferried it into LA's Coliseum stadium, site of the 1984 Olympics, where it began a labyrinthine 15,000-mile, 94-day journey that yesterday reached its halfway stage. The relay has set America alight.

By the time the flame enters Atlanta's Olympic stadium on July 19, about 50 million Americans will have gathered at remote country junctions, lined small-town Main Streets and packed into city parks to cheer it on its way.

Gulls get taste of mankind's cruelty

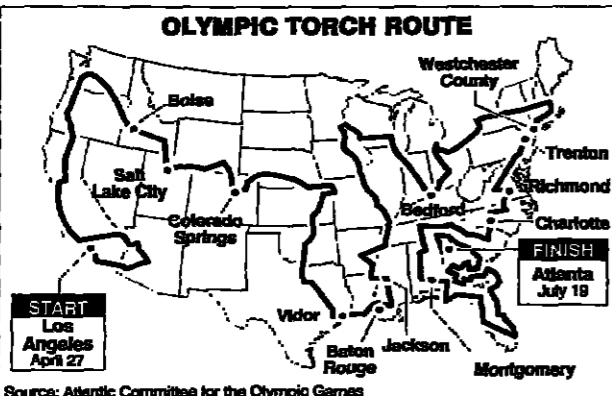
FROM QUENTON LEVY IN NEW YORK

THOUSANDS of seagulls in New England suffered agonised, twitching deaths after an official cull with poison went wrong.

Gulls dropped out of the sky, flopped on to rooftops and flapped pathetically after eating margarine sandwiches which had been laced with a chemical called DRC1339. Other gulls sat in their nests for up to a week while the poison destroyed their livers.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service undertook the poisoning as part of a "habitat restoration" for piping plovers and roseate terns, which were being overcome by gulls at the Monomoy Island refuge off Cape Cod. The plovers and terns are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The service was attacked by animal rights experts. Dorothy Checchi-O'Brien, a local protester, said: "The gulls are all over the place. It is like a mini world war."



Dole softens line on abortion in bid to unite party

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE sounded a clarion call for Republican unity yesterday by proposing a more tolerant approach to abortion, the issue most likely to upset his presidential hopes and split the party at its national convention in August.

He said the party's demand for a constitutional amendment banning abortion would remain unchanged, but explained that he wanted to include a "declaration of tolerance" for moderate Republicans who opposed the ban.

"We Republicans must avoid the bitterness and intolerance of the Democratic Party that leads them to silence those who oppose their headline views," said Mr Dole, who has always voted against abortion in his more than 30-year tenure in Congress. "Our convention must reflect not only our strong pro-life convictions, but a decent regard for the opinions of those who disagree."

The first unequivocal statement on abortion, coming just days before his formal resignation from the Senate, was the most significant attempt by Mr Dole to assert leadership over his fractious party. He is eager to avert any sense of division at the San Diego convention. Pat Buchanan, the

conservative commentator who offered the strongest challenge to Mr Dole in the Republican primaries earlier this year, has vowed to resist any softening of the party's platform on abortion and has promised to make a strong anti-abortion speech at the convention.

Other leading Republicans, including Governors George Pataki of New York, Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey, who is being considered as a possible candidate for the vice-presidency, William Weld of Massachusetts and Pete Wilson of California, are all committed to a pro-choice party.

At the 1992 convention in Houston, the intolerance on social issues such as abortion contributed to the later defeat of George Bush. Mr Dole said the Democrats, whose party policy supports abortion rights, had also made a grave error at their convention the same year by excluding pro-life voices of dissent. In particular Bob Casey, the former Governor of Pennsylvania.

Mr Dole is currently trailing President Clinton by about 20 points in most national polls and the Kansas is under intense pressure to broaden his appeal.

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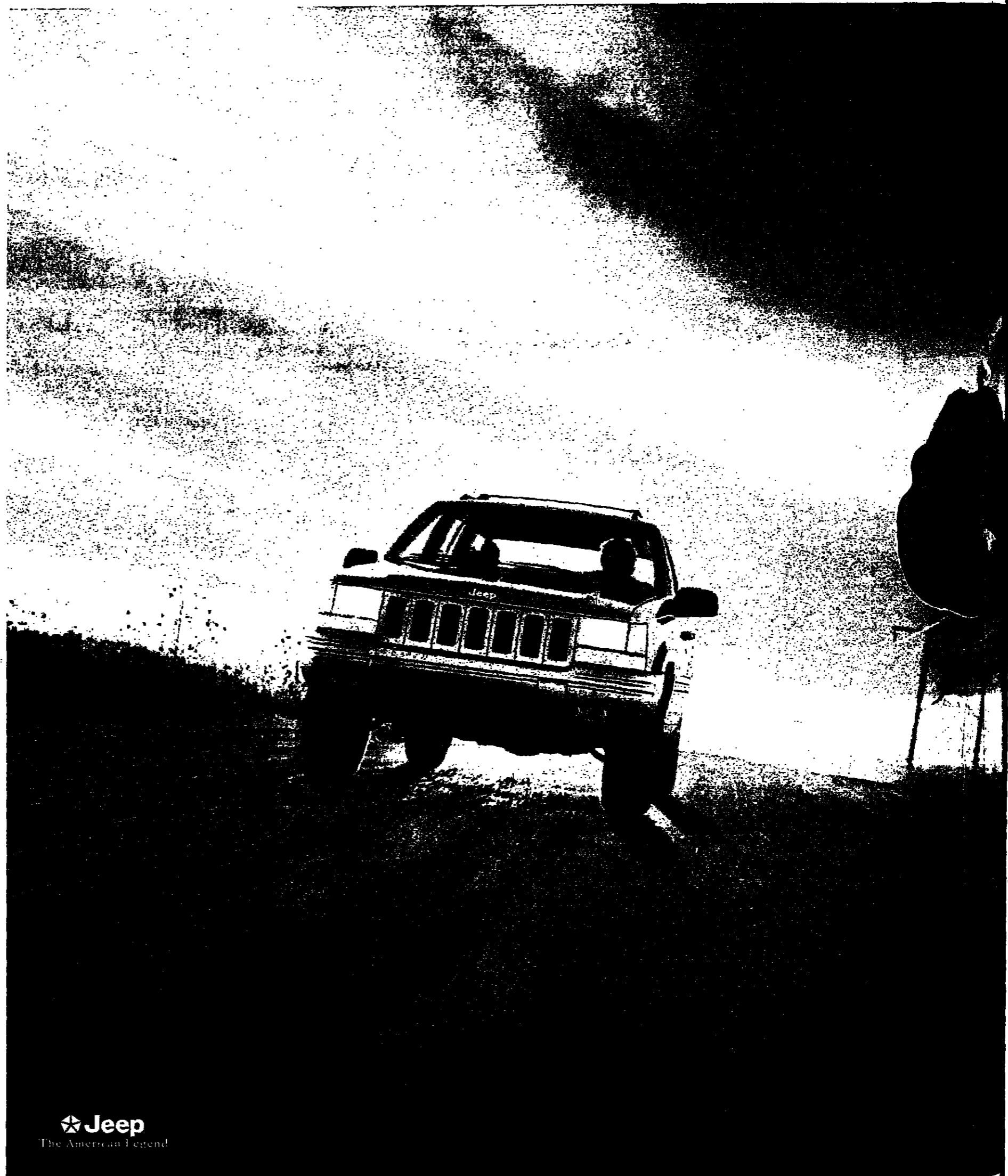
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Putting distance between Europe and its rivals

It has been a good time to slip quietly out of Europe and be able to take stock of things from a far-away perspective, as I did last weekend.

The need to promote strategic change at Incheape took me to a management conference in Asia (Macau, to be precise), where so much of the company's trading interests are centred.

I left Heathrow for this eastern assignment exactly ten days after becoming President of the CBI. In that short period, I had been propelled into the position of acting as spokesman for British business in the midst of the drama erupting over the beef export ban and the Government's negotiating tactic of stonewall and stymie. The navigation of Niagara Falls in a barrel might have seemed to be a preferable challenge to the one of diving head first into CBI leadership at such a time.

This feeling was not helped by the fact that I would be returning to my first major CBI event — this week's launch of the "Business In

Europe" series of conferences, designed to set up a national debate and a lobby of opinion in favour of placing business priorities in the forefront of European Union development. With this to consider en route, it was fortunate, on reflection, that my principal business interest ensured that I travelled with British Airways and not another carrier, where fellow travellers might have included an excitable England football squad.

In Asia, as indeed in North America, the view of Europe's problems seems that much clearer. The enterprise and energy of agile, fast-growing economies out East is plainly aimed at competing not just on a national or regional basis, but on a global scale. Europe — our manufacturers and service providers, on one hand; and our collective consumer market on the other — is the target.

It becomes easy to deduce that the strategies of European business must, in turn, be geared to the achievement of an advanced level of global competitive ability; and that

a necessarily constrained national market base is woefully inadequate, in this context. The global ambitions of British business, especially, need the foundation of a single, pan-European market in which we can trade and invest freely without (in the words of that time-honoured British entreaty to foreigners) let or hindrance.

Asian business people worry about us and Europe. For many of them, it is with our apparent stop/start attitude to Europe who are inscrutable. They need assurance that Britain will assert itself as an active, effective, integral part of Europe, because we provide their preferred gateway into the European Union, with all the very evident implications this has for new investment, employment and support services.

One of them is Chan Bae, managing director of Samsung Electronics which has relocated its European headquarters from Frankfurt to London and is investing £600 million in Britain. I have a particular interest in this burgeon-

EXECUTIVE VOICE



Sir Colin Marshall

ing British trade sector, as chairman of London First Centre, the inward investment agency for our capital city.

I sit up and take note when people like Mr Chan say, as he did recently: "Membership of the EU has made Britain a magnet for inward investment, attracting one third of all inward investment into the EU and, in our case, 50 per cent of Korean." The Samsung chief

was clearly speaking not just for himself, but on behalf of all overseas inward investors who flock to these shores.

The truly ironic thing about the inward investment market, as we have seen through the ever-growing jungle of pro-European/anti-European rhetoric, is that Britain is valued because we offer the best of both worlds. By that, I mean we provide the benefits of a sovereign state, with our own firmly focused economic policies, based on low inflation and a low cost of borrowing, along with other national attributes; while, at the same time, delivering unregulated access to the largest free trade zone on earth, as a fully-fledged partner in the EU.

This situation is something which neither commerce and industry, as represented by the CBI, nor Government, as confirmed variously by Messrs Major, Heseltine, Rifkind, Clarke and Lang; and would-be government, in the form of Messrs Blair and Ashdown, would be inclined to

change. So far as I can see, this comfortable status quo is also what the majority of so-called "Euro-sceptics" want to maintain. What then, if a dubious pun can be permitted, is the beef?

Certainly, there are serious, obvious concerns in Europe for our farming and fishing industries. I have to say there are also concerns for our airlines, in the case of state aid and subsidy to nationalised competitors. Transport is still not fully deregulated; and neither is another industry in which I am involved, telecommunications. There is still too much bureaucracy in Brussels and Jacques Santer's "prefecture" must be thinned out as, indeed, he seems to acknowledge readily. Things have to alter and the pace of change has to be quickened.

But this is not to do with any looming threat of political and monetary union. Concerns rest with the problems of completing the single European market as a free-trade consortium among like-minded, but essentially independent national business

communities. We want the heavy hands of politics and government lifted from the shoulders of enterprise and industry, not the other way round.

Those who peddle in spurious, doom-laden notions of the suffocation of British sovereignty do no service to the people of Britain whose prospects, in terms of both actual jobs at present and potential new ones in the future, depend arguably on single market opportunity for British firms, large and small, and for those investing here from overseas.

We must begin to look beyond the bovine imbroglio, which commonsense tells us will surely find harmony sooner rather than later, to the vital long-term task of getting European business truly fit for success in a global market.

For sure, that's the way it looks from a sensible distance.
Sir Colin Marshall is President of the CBI; chairman of British Airways; chairman of Incheape; deputy chairman of BT; and chairman of London First Centre.

BBA forced to drop Lucas takeover bid

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE threat of a major shareholder revolt has forced BBA Group to withdraw from launching a £25 billion takeover bid for Lucas Industries.

A campaign by Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, which holds a 4 per cent stake in BBA, was backed by institutional shareholders, including Threadneedle Asset Management and Standard Life.

The BBA board decided yesterday not to pursue a bid. It said in a statement that it was not satisfied Lucas shareholders would accept on suitable terms an alternative proposal to the planned £3.2 billion merger with Varsity Corporation.

BBA would have needed to take on about £1 billion of debt and issue around £1.9 billion

of shares to pay for the deal. Its withdrawal leaves the field free for other bidders to try to derail the merger, which will take about three months to complete.

A number of companies have been linked with a further bid, including Landesmann and Linde, both of Germany. But there is a growing feeling in the City that BBA's failure to put together a suitable package would count against anyone else entering the fray.

Shares in Lucas fell 15p to close at 239p, while BBA was unchanged at 303p.

Mike Beard, director of communication at Lucas, said: "We welcome the statement which underlines the excellent shareholder value created by the merger. Our shareholders and customers have throughout given strong support for the merger."

Under Takeover Panel rules BBA will not be permitted to bid for at least three months, by which time the Varsity merger will have been completed unless another third party mounts a bid.



Clive Reeks, left, and David Tooth, of Silk Industries, where annual pre-tax profits rose 12.6 per cent to £2.4 million. A final dividend of 4p makes a total payout of 6p

Casino firm sets sights on Europe

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

LONDON Clubs International, the casino group, is set to launch a major expansion abroad and is looking at new sites in Brussels, Athens, Cyprus and Dublin.

London Clubs already owns casinos in Egypt and France and will open a site in Beirut this year. Alan Goodenough, chief executive, said: "There are a number of exciting opportunities abroad, but there are still a number of legal hurdles to clear before we can develop these new sites."

The company yesterday announced a 13 per cent rise in its full-year pre-tax profits, to £33 million, on turnover of £167 million, up by 7.5 per cent.

The company's two upper-market London casinos, the Ritz and Les Ambassadeurs, performed strongly, and the London Park Tower, acquired in October, has fulfilled expectations.

The total dividend was raised 17 per cent, to 15.5p. A final dividend of 10.5p is payable on July 31.

Shares in the company rose 4p, to close at 527p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Spring Ram warns of first-half loss

ROGER REGAN, chairman of Spring Ram, yesterday warned shareholders that the kitchens and bathrooms group would incur a first-half loss, with City analysts now expecting a deficit of as much as £8 million. Mr Regan said trading conditions in the first half of this year were worse than at the same time last year, when Spring Ram made a profit of just £900,000. In the full year, it incurred a loss of £43 million.

The continued bad performance, along with the slow progress of Spring Ram's attempts to sell its door and furniture operations, are set to bring further pressure on Mr Regan. He took control of the group three years ago when Bill Rooney, the founder, was ousted after a revolt by institutional shareholders. But, since then, the group has struggled and its share price has collapsed from 80p, to 16½p yesterday.

Pillar raising £44m

PILLAR, the property and investment group, is raising £44 million with a placing and open offer to fund expansion of its retail and leisure property portfolios. The company is issuing new shares at 160p each on a one-for-four basis. Existing shares fell 1p to 171p. Pillar saw a 95 per cent jump in pre-tax profits for the year to March 31, to £6.4 million. Earnings per share rose by 33 per cent, to 5.2p, and a final dividend of 3.2p will be paid, making 4.7p for the first full year after flotation.

Allders backs Swissair

ALLDERS has finally endorsed a planned £160 million sale of Alders International, the group's duty-free stores chain, to Swissair. The company yesterday said it would ask shareholders to vote against a lower offer by BAA, the airports operator, at an extraordinary meeting on Monday. A bidding war broke out this week after BAA and the Swiss airline lifted their opening bids by £15 million each. Swissair offered £160 million just hours after BAA lifted its bid to £145 million.

Critchley calls for cash

CRITCHLEY GROUP, the acquisitive cable identification and accessories company, is raising £11.5 million through a rights issue after recording a 27 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £7.13 million for the year to March 31. One new share is being offered for every ten held at 810p each. Critchley's existing shares fell 43p to 942p. Earnings per share were 33.2p (27.1p), and a final dividend of 7.35p made a total of 10.85p (9.25p).

WEEK TWO

THE SUNDAY TIMES

1000 MAKERS OF SPORT



The determination of a champion etched on her face, Chris Evert powers her way into the pantheon of sporting greats. She joins other 20th century legends such as Henry Cooper, Little Mo Connelly, Di Stefano, Gareth Edwards and Dawn Fraser in Part 2 of the superb FREE series 1000 Makers of Sport

PLUS: LAWSON'S RECIPES

In the Style section, Therese Lawson reveals the dishes that helped Nigel to shed pounds, from cheese and apple soufflé to weeping leg of lamb with aubergine gratin

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TOURIST RATES

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Austria Sch	17.61	16.11
Belgium Fr	51.55	47.25
Canada \$	2.215	2.055
Cyprus Cyp£	0.78	0.705
Denmark Kr	8.89	8.89
Finland Mkt	7.83	7.18
France Fr	8.41	7.76
Germany Dm	2.52	2.21
Greece Dr	388	383
Hong Kong \$	12.60	11.80
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shtk	5.44	4.79
Italy Lira	2487	2342
Japan Yen	181.80	165.80
Malta	0.598	0.543
Netherlands Gld	2.794	2.564
New Zealand \$	2.45	2.23
Norway Kr	10.65	9.85
Portugal Esc	255.00	236.50
S Africa Rd	7.28	6.46
Spain Ptas	207.00	194.00
Sweden Kr	11.03	10.23
Switzerland Fr	2.07	1.89
Turkey Lira	124414	116414
USA \$	1.642	1.512

Rates for small denomination bank notes (Barclays Bank rates, Friday close). Other rates apply to travellers' cheques.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SHOP SOILED

Last Saturday night, only hours after his Facia retail empire had collapsed, Stephen Hinchliffe was at a party in his home town of Sheffield. Sipping drinks and amusing guests, he was already scheming about how he could revive his business... 9

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: JOHN FINBOW

Pot of gold at end of researcher's rainbow

Sarah Cunningham talks to a chemist who takes a down-to-earth view of his impending wealth after a lifetime in the laboratory

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

JOHN FINBOW, the managing director of City Technology, is in the rare and happy position of knowing that, later this month, he will become a multimillionaire.

Although he is a successful businessman, the 50-year-old Finbow is also an unassuming research chemist who has spent much of his working life in a laboratory. He insists that the £8 million to £10 million he can expect to make, on paper at least, when City Technology is floated will not affect his life. "I'm not extravagant, I can't eat any more and I can't drink any more," he says, demonstrating a self-control some lottery winners would do well to emulate.

City Technology, which designs and produces gas sensors, is the latest company owned and run by former academics to come to the market. The offer size is expected to be about £45 million, with about £20 million of new money, which will go to pay off debts. The company will be valued at £75 million to £80 million. The offer will be priced on Thursday, and trading will begin on June 20.

Finbow owns about 14 per cent of the company, which will be diluted to around 10.5 per cent. Although he acknowledges that he could sell up and retire a rich man, he is happy to leave his investment with the company. "I don't need the money. Provided it's a good investment and continues to grow, as I'm sure it will, I'll stay there until such time as I need it," he says.

The company was formed by Finbow and fellow chemists — including Brian Hobbs, now technical director — at City University, London, in 1977. It stayed part of the university until 1993, when it was bought out for £24.5 million by the management team, backed by venture capitalists led by 3i.

Finbow now sees himself as occupying three distinct roles. He has been managing director since 1989, but considers that the least demanding part of his job. More taxing and interesting to him is his work in development and in sales and marketing. "Development is conceiving of an idea and getting others to turn it into a reality," he says. "It takes maybe 10 per cent of my time. About half my time is spent marketing: endlessly meeting customers, talking about problems, and doing a lot of travelling because 75 per cent of our product is exported overseas. You have to go and see your customers; otherwise, they forget you exist."

But above all, he says, "I like to think of myself as an entrepreneur, looking for opportunities in the market and then going downstairs and discussing with the guys how we can do it." His motivation is simple: "Ego," he says.

This unusual combination of scientific know-how, enthusiasm for marketing and driving ambition has helped City Technol-

ogy to triple in size in the past five years. Last year it made an operating profit of £5.8 million on turnover of £14.4 million.

The company's origins lie with a Ministry of Defence contract won by City University in the early Seventies to make a sensor for fighter pilots' face-masks that could monitor their supply of oxygen. A round of defence spending cuts meant that the contract was cancelled, but the technology worked and soon other customers came forward. Finbow and his colleagues found that the same technology could be used to monitor other gases. Their electronic and catalytic bead sensors are now widely used in the mining, petrochemical, power generation and steel industries.

"We tried to sell the technology," Finbow recalls, "but in those days venture capitalists hadn't been invented. Nobody saw the potential, nobody was interested. So being hungry and having young children, we decided to do it ourselves."

It was unusual for a company to be set up within a university, but, he says, "the powers were quite keen". By contrast, "in the departments and among some individuals there was a fair amount of hostility".

In spite of that, he remembers it as an ideal environment in many ways. "We had a wonderful arrangement because the university was really like a banker and if we wanted materials the university would pay up, and we also didn't have to worry about salaries. It was a marvellous nurturing environment. We could get on with the job in hand of designing and building sensors."

The company gradually got too big for the City University buildings in Clerkenwell and its managers eventually approached him and asked: "Would you like to relocate because we'd like to build some lecture theatres?" The company took the hint and moved to Portsmouth, attracted by the good access and a well-trained workforce.

But it was the beginning of the end of its relationship with City University. "When we were down in Portsmouth, the university completely lost contact except as a shareholder and I think they didn't understand what we were doing and talking about and they had their own plans for capital investment. I told them they were selling too soon, but wearing my managing director's hat it was good for our shareholders who got the company for a good price," Finbow says.

Kleinwort Benson handled the sale process and, although a number of companies expressed an interest, the managers won out. "We hankered after having a go ourselves and valued our independence," he says.

Although he had never imagined himself managing a rapidly growing private company, Finbow says that he never felt out of his depth entering the commercial world. "One surrounds oneself with professional advisers, finance directors, people who can look after the

details," he says. "When you are successful, it is not difficult to organise and manage. It is when you get into trouble that you need a different kind of manager and probably a different kind of person to me," he says.



John Finbow has three distinct roles, but likes to think of himself as an entrepreneur above all. His motivation is simple: "Ego," he says

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Personally, the move away from London has meant great happiness for Finbow and his wife, Toni, who teaches dyslexic children. They moved their family of four boys to the peace and quiet of Romsey, 30 miles from Portsmouth, on the edge of the New Forest. Their house has a large garden, which he enjoys working on, and films. He wants to set up a video company, with which his father will become involved.

His sons have very different lives from what Finbow experienced growing up in Paddington, west London, the son of a builder. His only worry about them is that they could become spoilt. "I don't want them to feel that they're going to inherit millions of pounds, so they can sit around and do nothing. They've got to go out and make their own way. What we can do is to give them a start."

Finbow has few worries about the future of the company, which is looking to new markets in monitoring pollution and developing improved carbon monoxide alarms for homes. The company's skill, he says, is in taking existing technology and adapting it for mass-market production. "We have no big rivals; it is very difficult for anyone now to come into the market. It would take two or three years, and nobody is that committed to doing it," he says.

British scientists have always been considered excellent at science, but bad at turning ideas into products. This is unfair, Finbow argues, saying: "The scientists are very good at developing things but unfortunately are not often given the opportunity to take them to market and sell

them. They are usually taken over by accountants and other professionals, who don't have a clue about the product." He adds: "If someone like Clive Sinclair were starting today, the enterprise culture would probably make him very successful. But he struggled because he didn't have funds. He was way ahead of his time; he just wasn't supported."

Finbow blames City short-termism for the problems of his predecessors, but does not mind taking a short-term view himself occasionally — when the drama of flotation is over, his plan is to "drink copious quantities of ale, cut the grass in the garden and put my feet up".

HIDDEN ASSETS

Artistic chemistry that cures the office blues

Joanna Pitman on how Boots created a splendid gallery of contemporary work

Boots the Chemists has recently installed a magnificent collection of contemporary works of art, specially commissioned for its new headquarters in Nottingham. The company has a long tradition of artistic and architectural patronage and is perhaps best known in this area for its famous Grade I listed D10 factory at Beeston in Nottingham.

Designed by Owen Williams and completed in 1932, it is now recognised by architectural historians as a pioneering work of English Modernism.

The new group headquarters, however, is a single-storey building, also in Nottingham, designed by Amec Design and Management. The interiors are ideal for large-scale contemporary art — white walls with muted complementary colours and wide open spaces washed with natural light.

The dignity and simplicity of the surroundings required careful artistic commissioning to produce a collection that would both complement the spaces and reflect the culture of the company.

James Knox, of Art for Work, acted as consultant on the project. "The patience and skill required in an act of genuine patronage have as their goal the production of works of art that benefit both the company and the artist at every level."

"The pitfalls are avoided by matching the right artist to the right subject. Ultimately the finished works must enhance both the working environment and the reputa-

tion of the artist." The collection he assembled has already proved successful from both the corporate and the artists' point of view; a number of the already distinguished artists have since been elevated to greater public triumphs.

Philip Hughes, for example, was commissioned to design a pair of wall rugs to be hung at the entrance to the main interior office. Hughes was inspired by an aerial view of the River Trent as it flows through an urban landscape. Since his work was hung, he has been

appointed chairman of the National Gallery in London, the first artist chosen for the post. For the central meeting area of the building, Steven Newell, the glass engraver, was commissioned to design a stained-glass screen. He produced a huge piece of intricately designed coloured glasswork, which dominates the end wall. The design derived from his studies of a pestle and mortar and is considered to be his most ambitious and unusual work to date.

Leonard McComb, Keeper of the Royal Academy



Leonard McComb, Keeper of the Royal Academy Schools, designed this tapestry for the boardroom

Schools, was chosen to design another tapestry for the boardroom. His design responded not only to the sophisticated demands of the patron's brief, but also to his own extensive artistic experience. He created an unusually fluid and serene image of fish swimming among a coral reef.

Another carefully chosen subject was handled by Richard Perry, the Nottingham sculptor, who was asked to create a pair of bronzes to stand outside the entrance of the building.

Perry, who is often inspired by the forms and colours and movements of nature, designed a pair called *Willow Cube* and *Pine Cube*, which he cast in bronze from plaster.

Meanwhile, the 1932 Boots factory, hailed as "an icon of British Modernism", has been restored and refurbished by Amec Design and Management in consultation with English Heritage.

As Peter Fawcett, Professor of Architecture at Nottingham University, points out: "The process of conserving Modern Movement buildings is notoriously problematic. The importance of this project is that Boots decided to inject a new lease of life into a Grade I listed building while maintaining its original commercial purpose."

"That its enhanced performance standards have been achieved without detriment to the ethos of Williams's masterpiece indicates another chapter in the history of the conservation of Modernist buildings."

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T0806

Dow leads London lower as rate rise fears grow

RENEWED worries about an imminent rise in US interest rates left government securities and equities nursing sharp falls on the day.

The FT-SE 100 index closed just above the 3,700 mark after being sent reeling by an opening plunge of almost 87 points in the Dow Jones industrial average. The index ended the session 53.5 points down, at 3,706.5, a fall on the week of 41 points.

The setback follows publication of the latest US employment figures showing the number of people getting jobs growing by 348,000, way above most forecasts. Once again, economists have taken this as a signal that the US economy is gathering pace and that a rise in interest rates is inevitable.

The consequences of such a move were not lost on London, where earlier this week base rates were cut to 5.75 per cent, their lowest level for eight years.

Blue-chip stocks were all marked lower, but selling pressure was minimal, with total turnover reaching 722 million shares. BAT Industries fell 15p to 498p, Glaxo 15p to 818p and Legal & General 23p to 622p.

The snail of burnt fingers wafted round the Square Mile last night as shares of Lucas Industries tumbled 15p, to 239p, after BBA stunned speculators by announcing that it would not be proceeding with its blocking bid.

BBA, unchanged at 303p, has been locked in talks with institutional shareholders during the past couple of days, trying to gauge the level of support that it could muster if it were to make a bid for the larger Lucas.

An announcement from the company said that it had been unable to satisfy itself that Lucas shareholders would accept an alternative deal to the proposed merger between Lucas and Vario Corporation of the US. Only last week, Lucas announced plans for a £3.2 billion merger with Vario, creating a leading force in the car components market.

Last night, the speculators were holding out for another bidder to emerge for Lucas, pointing to open positions in the shares on the traded options market where there are still 9,000 contracts, equivalent to nine million shares, among the August 26p series.



The battle over control of duty-free shops saw Alders up 4p and BAA down 4p as BAA lost out to Swissair

GKN, down 16p at 974p, TI 14p off at 524p and BTR 6p lower at 269p, have all been tipped this week as potential suitors.

Shares of Maid, the online information provider, enjoyed a late rally, finishing 38p ahead on the day at 336p, just a shade below the year's high. It follows publication of a bullish circular from Merrill

British Aerospace rose 24p to 937p. Talk that Airbus Industrie, the aircraft manufacturer in which it has a 20 per cent stake, may be floated is back on the agenda after a visit to Airbus's Toulouse plant earlier this week by a group of US investors. Brokers say Airbus could be worth £4 billion-plus.

Lynch, the broker, rating the shares a buy. Merrill considers Maid one of the best Internet plays on the London market and the shares look good value for money. The group should begin to be "strongly profitable" next year on the back of dramatically increased subscriber numbers, especially in the US. Last month, Maid reported an increased first-quarter loss of £1.43 million, compared with

from Swissair topped a previous increase offered from BAA worth £145 million. Alders finished 4p dearer at 210p.

Shares in the Premier League football clubs came under the hammer as the under-takers moved in after the clubs agreed an extension of their deal with BSkyB, where News International, publisher of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, and the BBC. The new four-year con-

tract is worth £743 million and begins at the start of the 1997-98 season. BSkyB was 4p down at 432p after announcing the deal.

FA Carling Premiership matches will continue to be shown on the satellite channel, with recorded highlights on the BBC's *Match of the Day*. The three publicly-quoted premier league clubs have been chased sharply higher all week and some profit-taking was inevitable, say brokers.

Manchester United, the current champions, fell 24p to 439p, and Tottenham Hotspur 7p to 454p. The latter remains 75p up on the week. Chelsea Village, quoted on the Alternative Investment Market, was steady at 66p.

A profits warning left former high-flyer Spring Rail 3p lower at 16p. Roger Regan, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that first-half results at the troubled kitchen and bathroom equipment supplier would fall well short of last year's £900,000. However, the second half will show an improvement on the corresponding period last year, when the group made a loss, before exceptional items, of £13 million.

Lloyds TSB fell 8p to 306p after SBC Warburg, the broker, downgraded its recommendation from "add" to a "hold". Warburg is said to have made its move in the belief that the Bank of England will alter the way the group can treat profits on the balance sheet accrued from insurance activities.

GILT-EDGED: Reaction to the US employment numbers was fairly predictable, with market-makers moving quickly to deter any potential sellers. The markdown was a repeat performance of previous months after publication of the figures.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt fell £9.32 to £104.72, as a total of 71,000 contracts were completed by the close.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 also fell £1.16 to £96.11, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £9.32 easier at £102.12.

NEW YORK: The stronger than expected US jobs report for May led to early falls on Wall Street. Shares recovered some of the losses and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 29.19 points down at 5,638.00.

MARKET INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5638.00 (-29.19)
S&P Composite	666.36 (-6.87)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21751.81 (-52.65)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11106.55 (-29.28)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	366.51 (-6.25)
Sydney:	
ASX 200	2222.1 (-6.31)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2357.43 (-14.00)
Singapore:	
SEAC	2338.30 (-14.04)
Brussels:	
General	9434.87 (-45.15)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2101.99 (-31.23)
Zurich:	
SMI	777.80 (-6.20)
London:	
FT 100	2752.2 (-47.11)
FT 100 Mid 250	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 All Share	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Industrials	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Financials	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Consumer	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Health	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Tech	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Energy	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Telecom	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Utilities	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Real Estate	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Insurance	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Media	2708.8 (-53.53)
FT 100 Transport	2708.8 (-53.53)
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IN RHYTHM 33

Trusts dance to the tune of small savers

WEEKEND MONEY

LOST PENSIONS 34

Why women lose out when they retire



Endowments are left in the shade

Caroline Merrell on why many savings plans may not yield enough to repay the mortgage

Millions of home owners will enjoy cheaper mortgages after this week's cut in base rates. However, the cost savings for many may be counteracted by higher premiums on endowments as it becomes increasingly clear that many savings plans are not on track to pay off loans.

Some of the UK's biggest life insurance companies, including Royal Life, Pearl and Legal & General, have been forced to contact their policyholders to alert them to the problem. Others, such as Prudential and Norwich Union, are monitoring the situation to see whether they need to take action, while Standard Life and Scottish Amicable are leaving it up to their clients to make contact to try to find out whether they need to pay more in to their savings schemes.

Many policyholders could face substantial increases to their premiums on the back of the dwindling returns earned by their endowments. Pearl, for instance, has contacted 30,000 policyholders from a total of 440,000 to warn them of the possible shortfall between their policies and the mortgage.

Royal claims that around two thirds of these clients face increases in premiums of less than £120 a year, while the worst affected could end up paying £300 more a year in premiums.

Royal wrote to a selection of its policyholders two years ago to point out that they could have to increase their premiums to ensure that their mortgages were paid off. Chris Hudson, Royal Life spokesman, said the company was now writing to all its with-profits endowment policyholders to alert them to a change in the way policies are reviewed. He also said the company would be contacting a number of these to warn them about a possible shortfall.

Some financial advisers are predicting that if no action is taken, some of the shorter-term policies could end up being about £5,000 less than the £50,000 average mortgage. John Hylands, Standard Life general manager of marketing, on the other hand, is confident that the 1.6 million policies sold by the company are on track to meet their target. He said: "We have been achieving returns over about 10 per cent on our policies, so we feel confident that the policies are on target."

At the height of the housing boom nine years ago, about 80 per cent of those taking out a mortgage also took out an endowment aimed at paying off the loan at the end of the mortgage term. Figures from the Association of British Insurers show that nearly seven million endowments were sold from 1987 to 1989 alone.

These savings plans were offered by the majority of the biggest building societies through their tie-ups with life insurance companies. Halifax, for example, had a tie-up with Standard Life, Alliance & Leicester was linked up with Scottish Amicable, while Nationwide sold the policies of Guardian Royal Exchange — now called Guardian.

Prospective homeowners were told that not only would they have enough to pay off their loans at the end of the term, they would also have an extra tax-free lump sum when their policy matured. The premium rate for these policies was determined by standard projections and standard charges. Until 1988, those offering with-profits endowments were allowed to assume that they would grow annually at a rate of between 7 and 10.5 per cent, and that standard charges on the policies would apply. The premium rates on these policies were set using these projected returns.

Unfortunately, many companies have failed to produce the returns necessary to match these projections, and the charges on policies have risen sharply — by up to 20 per cent in some cases.

A recent survey by *Money Marketing*, the trade magazine, showed that the average return over the past ten years on an endowment policy was about 9.8 per cent, while the lowest was 6.8 per cent. Over five years, the returns have been even lower, averaging about 8 per cent, with the poorest performers hitting 5.5 per cent.

Securitized Endowment Contracts, the independent financial adviser, monitors the performance of endowment contracts. Max Rosen, managing director, said the company had recently surveyed 300 policies from a number of the biggest life insurance companies. He said: "We think that around 60 per cent of these policies are not on track to pay off the mortgages as they were intended."

Mr Rosen added that if the trend of falling bonus rates, caused by falling investment returns and low inflation, continued over the next five years, then the majority of endowments would have to be reviewed.

Checklist for shortfall fears

If you think you have an endowment policy that is not on track to pay off a mortgage you can check this in a number of ways.

COMMUNICATE

If you bought your endowment through a bank or building society — by far the most common route — or through a financial adviser or life insurance salesman, contact them about your fears. They will be able to find out under what assumptions the policy was sold to you and contact the company to ascertain how the policy is doing, and whether any action needs to be taken.

You could also contact Securitized Endowment Contracts (SEC). For a sum of £10, SEC will provide with-profits endowment policyholders with a valuation, plus an idea of what their estimated maturity could be, and whether it will result in a deficit or surplus on the mortgage. SEC

claims that it will be able to provide the figures within 48 hours.

MOST AT RISK

The endowments that are most likely not to be able to pay off the loan are the shorter ten-year and 15-year contracts. These have had the most severe cuts in bonus rates. Those companies that have the poorest performing policies will also be more at risk than better-performers. According to a recent survey, the poorest performers over ten years included Eagle Star, Royal Life, Scottish Amicable and Scottish Life. Also most likely to be at risk are the "low-cost" endowments where generous projections were used to keep the cost of premiums down.

ACTION PLAN

Any action you choose to take depends on your circumstances. Pearl, for instance, is giving its policyholders a

choice of five options. For those who have less than ten years to maturity, or whose policies are less than £10 a month, it suggests saving up in a building society account to pay off any shortfall. The amount you need to save depends on the projected shortfall. It is also suggesting that these people could top up the premiums on their existing plans. One further option is to pay off part of the original loan. Some lenders allow this, while others may charge.

If you have a long time to go before the policy matures, you could choose to do nothing, in the hope that the performance of the endowment will improve. The low investment yields being experienced at present because of low inflation and low interest rates may not continue for ever.

You should not surrender your policy as most life insurance companies impose large surrender penalties.

CAROLINE MERRELL



Direct in its lowest offer yet

Direct Line delivered its strongest challenge to the high street lenders by cutting its mortgage rate to 6.05 per cent from 6.3 per cent, substantially undercutting the biggest building societies, which settled their rates around the 6.99 per cent mark.

The company also moved on the savings side by lowering rates on higher balances, but increasing the rate on those with balances of £500 to £999 to 4.5 per cent. The high street lenders have yet to make any move on savings, but all are indicating further cuts.

Jim Spowart, Direct Line financial services managing director, said: "Our new rates offer far better value than high street banks and building societies, including the mutuals."

A £60,000, 25-year variable rate repayment loan with Direct Line will now cost £367 per month at 6.05 per cent. This compares to the monthly repayment rate of £402 on the equivalent Halifax mortgage — a saving of £34 a year.

Direct Line's rate also undercuts some offered by those lenders committed to mutuality. For instance, it is lower than Bradford & Bingley's variable rate, which was cut to 6.74 per cent from 6.99 per cent, but higher than the 5.99 per cent rate offered by Bradford & Bingley's direct arm. Direct Line's rate also undercuts that of the Nationwide's 6.74 per cent.

Other low rates announced this week include 6.24 per cent, down from 6.46 per cent, at the Coventry Building Society for borrowers who have been with this society for more than five years.

Ian Darby, marketing director of John Charcol, mortgage broker, said he thought there would be no immediate reaction in the fixed rate mortgage market to the rate cut, but added: "Longer-term fixed rates of more than five years may increase slightly."

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Keep a weather eye on 3i

As the top brass of 3i look out from their offices overlooking Waterloo station, they have every reason to feel content. The past few years have been ones of substantial progress, and achievement. The company's successful IPO in July 1994 established it as the UK's largest investment trust: membership of the FT-SE 100 club followed shortly thereafter, and since flotation of the company's shares have usefully beaten the UK market, returning 72 per cent with dividends reinvested, against 34 per cent for the All Share.

Just as importantly, the strategic changes ushered in by Ewen Macpherson, the current chief executive, and Brian Larcombe, the finance director, have stood the company in good stead. Costs remain under control. The company is exiting gracefully from a dalliance in the US and its network of offices throughout the UK continues to generate a steady stream of investment opportunities. The group invested £610 million in the year to March 31, 1996.

However, investment trusts' performance depends on the behaviour of their underlying assets and getting on for 90 per cent of 3i's assets are in UK companies, the bulk of which are pretty small. For example, only around 18 per cent of 3i's investments have a pre-tax profit of £5 million or more. Smaller companies, both quoted and unquoted, are sensitive to the health of the UK

PERSONAL INVESTOR

economy, but arguably unquoted are the more sensitive of the two. So, 3i's last difficult years came when the UK economy went into recession in the early 1990s, and the group's strong performance since listing owes something to the economic growth with which this has coincided.

So, if you believe that the UK economy is heading downwards, 3i is not the stock for you. Merrill Lynch believes that although the economy clearly dipped towards the end of 1995, fundamentally the UK remains well placed, with GDP growth forecast at 2.5 per cent for 1996 and 3.7 per cent for 1997. This would continue to provide a good backdrop for the group. Keep an eye out, though, for any signs of sustained economic weakness, as this would undoubtedly take its toll of 3i's assets.

Also, like all investment trusts, 3i does not necessarily trade at its net asset value (NAV). Some trusts trade at "premiums" to NAV, but at the moment the majority trade at below NAV, at a discount. 3i began life at a discount in the 'teens, but was smartly rerated to trade at a small premium. Why? Partly, no doubt, because investors perceived

that it was well managed and operated in a favourable background.

Another reason, though, was that only around 45 per cent of the company's shares were sold. As a result, index funds found it hard to buy their desired weightings. Last summer, another tranche of shares were sold, and on Thursday it was confirmed that the remaining big block of bank shares, NatWest's 17 per cent, was also to be sold. Index-related demand will therefore become a much less significant factor.

Finally, its non-UK assets must deliver the same level of returns as the UK. Last year, dull European economies and relatively dull markets for European smaller companies led to a 13 per cent return from this portfolio, against 28 per cent from the UK.

Buying any share is a balancing act, but the scales seem unusually even for 3i. In its favour: a strong record, a clear strategy and, in Merrill's view, a helpful background. Against: the company's rating could have more downside than upside, and the risks of getting the UK economy wrong could be substantial. We would hold on to 3i's shares but keep a lookout for any signs of economic weakness in the UK.

PHILIP MIDDLETON
Investment Trust Analyst, Merrill Lynch

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A slice out of life savings

Caroline Merrell and Sarah Jones
on how charges hit investments

Pity the poor investor. His money can be eaten away morsel by morsel in charges. After the middleman (the financial adviser, broker or salesman), fund manager and insurance company have had their slice, the investment cake certainly will not have any cherries or icing on top. In the first few years of a policy, the investor can be left with just a few crumbs.

However, there is some good news. Under the influence of newcomers, such as Virgin which has introduced low charge personal equity plans (Peps), charges under being reduced. The disclosure regime, introduced in January 1995, also forces fund managers and insurance companies to make a clean breast of their charges. Disclosure has, however, not hastened the reduction. Good performance must always be the overriding factor in any investment decision. But the impact of charges can decrease the prospect for profit, which means that even those who study the performance leagues are now increasingly checking out charges and other vital statistics, such as the mysterious free asset ratios. We answer your questions.

Q What level of charges can I expect to pay on a pension or endowment policy?

A When it comes to life insurance products, such as savings bonds, endowment policies and pensions, charges can take a greedy slice of the investment cake. On a single premium life bond, such as with profits or distribution bond, commission is around 5 per cent. However, on longer-term products, such as pensions and life insurance, commission may gobble up the majority of the investment in the early years. You will be told how much this commission will be in the product particulars. For example, on a £100-a-month pension plan, it may amount to around £832.

You will also be told in cash terms what all the other deductions will be. These will include fund management charges (on average 1 to 1.5 per cent a year), administration and policy charges (£2-£5 a month) and possibly renewal commission. You will also be provided with a surrender value for a pension. This figure is a good indicator of the overall impact of the charges in the early years.

The Money Marketing with-profits pension and endowment survey (£3.75 from customer services, 0171-292 3707) showed that surrender values after five years on a £20-a-month, 25-year term policy varied from £3,671 (Equitable Life) to £2,264 (Eagle Star), with a mean of £2,905.

Q Where can I find out more about how endowment and pension schemes compare?

A The Money Marketing survey rates schemes on various criteria, including surrender values, showing clearly the impact of charges. For example, if you make a single payment of £25,000 into a pension plan, over 35 years the Prudential will deduct £227,845 in charges. Royal Insurance deducts just £13,000.

Q What sort of charges can I expect to pay for a unit or investment trust?

A The first slice off a unit trust is the initial charge, which can be as high as 6 per cent. Typically half goes in commission to the middleman. The initial charge equates to the bid/offer spread, that is the difference between the quoted buying ("offer") price and the selling ("bid") price of units on a given day.

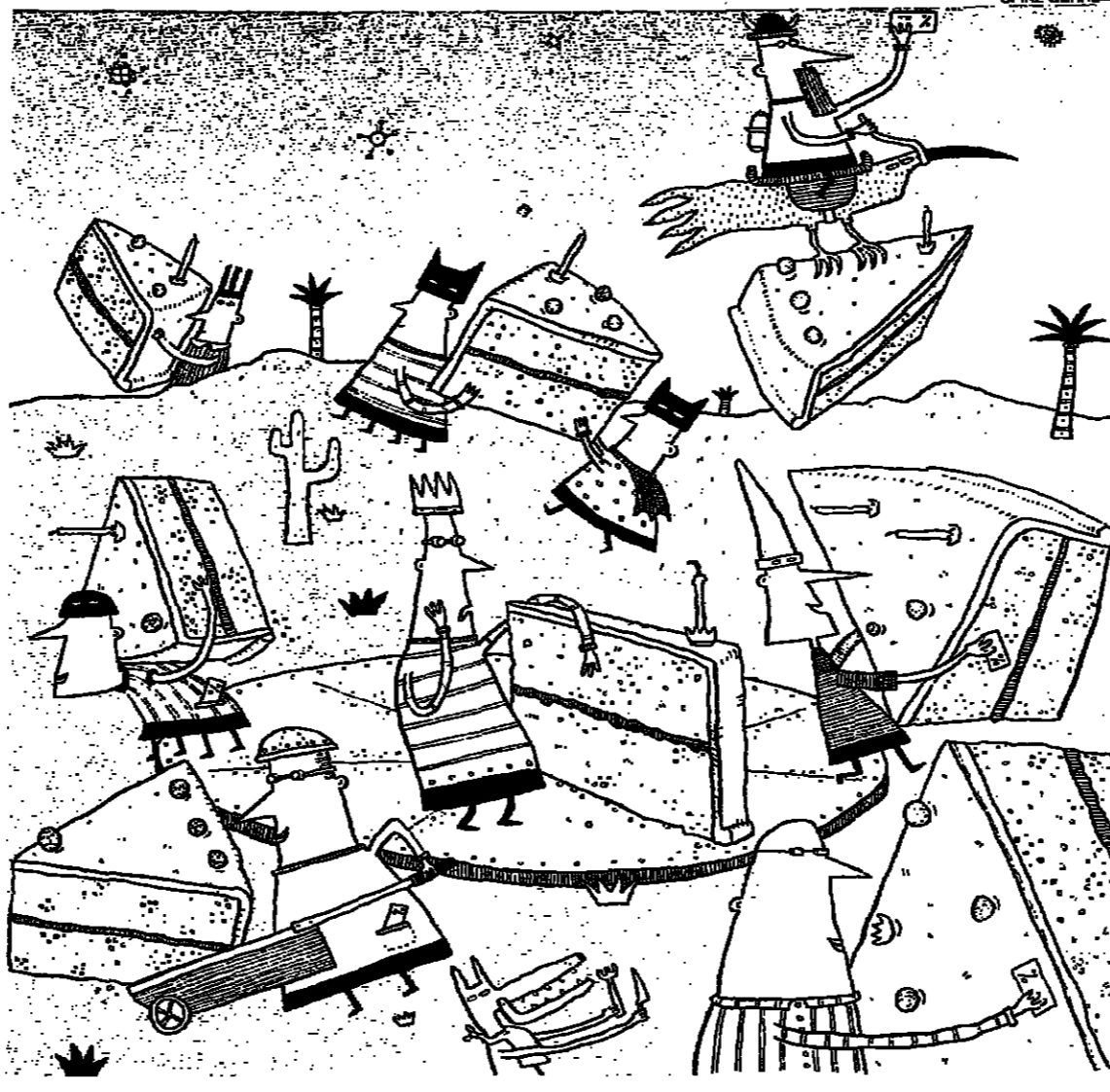
Sometimes the initial charge on a personal equity plan (Pep) is less than the bid/offer spread of the unit trust. Even then your investment has to perform by, say, 6 per cent to even start making money. The next slice comes from the annual management charge. Between 0.5 and 1.5 per cent will be taken out every year and over five or more years can add up to a substantial amount. With Peps that can include a renewal commission to the middleman. These charges are not performance-related. Even if the managers do a very poor job of stock picking they pick up their fees. However, charges are coming down; the average initial charge is 3 per cent. However, top performers such as Perpetual continue to have high charges, sure in the knowledge that their investments will attract customers.

Q How about investment trusts?

A Investment trusts can work out cheaper than unit trusts. Since you are buying and selling through the stock market, as opposed to through the fund manager, you will have to pay stockbrokers' commission — typically 1.5 per cent plus 0.5 per cent stamp duty. Annual management charges tend to be lower at 0.5 to 1 per cent. There will, however, be charges when you sell.

Q So typically how much does that mean?

A Say you invest £10,000 for five years in the Gartmore European unit trust. The initial charge



will be £560 and, assuming an annual growth of 10 per cent, the annual management charges amount to a further £620, a total of £1,180. Alternatively, put the same amount in the Gartmore European investment trust. You would pay £150 in stockbroker commission and another £50 in stamp duty. Annual management charges amount to £485 and when you sell the trust there will be £228 in stockbroker commission, a total of £913.

Q Where is it possible to get discounts?

A Generally you will get a discount, or rather a reduction in commission, for an execution-only deal. That means you have to know what you want, since you will get little advice. Discount houses include Chelsea (0171 351 6022), Garrison (01482 861455), Pep Shop (0115 962 5105), BEST Investment (0171-321 0100) and Allenbridge (0171-409 1111).

Alternatively go to a fee-based independent financial adviser. For a list of firms contact Money Management (01179 769444).

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN AN INSURER

OVER the past few years, a factor called financial strength has become increasingly important when choosing policies.

There may well be some strong reasons for not buying the policies offered by certain companies because they are financially weak. Companies in this position could be taken over — an action which may not always prove to be in the interests of the policyholders. Financially weak companies may not always be able to invest as freely as they would like, because they have to keep more of their investments in fixed interest securities to ensure that they meet their liabilities.

On the other hand, a takeover, or a demutualisation, may bring an extra bonus to the policyholder.

Q How is financial strength of a company measured?

A The most common measure of financial strength is the free

asset ratio, which is, as its name suggests, the assets that the company has after it has met all its liabilities. Professional opinion is divided about how useful this figure is.

Some believe that if this ratio is under 10 per cent, then the company could become a takeover target, while other observers believe that a figure of under 5 per cent is a more relevant yardstick.

If the company is the subsidiary of a bigger and stronger company, this figure may not be so relevant.

Friends Provident, Sun Alliance, Britannic Assurance, Colonial Mutual, Clerical Medical, Sun Life and Guardian Financial all had free asset ratios of under 10 per cent in 1994 — the latest for which figures are available.

Clerical Medical is being merged with Halifax Life, while Sun Alliance is going through a merger with Royal. Friends Provident is considering its options for the future, which might include a takeover or a demutualisation.



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

Supermarket sweep for investors

Kenneth Clarke is obviously a secret fan of Tesco. Shortly after the supermarket chain announced that its new loyalty card would be paying a 5 per cent interest rate on deposits, the Chancellor, an unassuming trencherman, acted to make this offer to look even better.

Those previously faithful to other chains will begin to haunt Tesco's aisles, not so much for the foodie delights, as for the generous rate of return paid by the new financial services department. For the sure, extra sales of groceries will more than compensate for the interest rate bill.

In spite of this week's base rate cut, the Tesco Clubcard Plus rate is fixed until the end of the year. The building societies, meanwhile, are in a quandary. Caught off-guard by the Chancellor's surprise base rate reduction, they were, at first reluctant to decrease their mortgage rates. They are now equally hesitant to drop savers' rates. But these qualms will be short-lived.

The four top-ten societies that are en route to the stock market, and preparing to make themselves alluring to shareholders have no wish to see their margins further squeezed. These aspiring plcs want the crucial interest rate margin between loan and investment rates to stay at its current level of about 2 per cent. The Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock are also sure in the knowledge that their customers will not be inclined to stray for fear of losing their payouts.

Those societies engaged in a love affair with mutuality may be slower to lower their investment rates. But they too have no desire to see their margins grow still slimmer.

Besides being an opportunity for Tesco, this latest rate cut may be the chance for Direct Line, to date better known for car cover, to make the hit in savings that it has achieved in insurance. So far, deposits have not arrived with the speed of the little red phone. Now Direct Line's savings division has moved to increase, rather than decrease, some of its savings rates. This kind of competition may ensure that the societies decide to trim a little less from their already anorexic rates.

System taxes your patience

THE anomalies and inconsistencies in the self-assessment tax system that have already come to light would fill a small volume. This week, two further examples have been discovered. One benefits the self-employed (a first), the other makes their lives more difficult.

As we report on page 32, the self-employed who contribute to a pension plan before July 1, backdating the payment to 1995-96, can reduce their tax bills by 40 per cent of the amount invested. The tax will finally be payable but not until 1998. In brief, an interest-free loan from the Inland Revenue.

This loophole may console a few parents applying for student grants for their children. As a result of one part of government having no idea of what the others are doing, local education authorities are continuing to ask for a 1996-97 schedule D tax assessment form. This provides proof of the parent's income, crucial to the whole application.

However, as Geoff Edwards, of Grant Thornton, the accountancy firm, points out, it is impossible to produce this document, as no such assessments will be issued this year, in the self-assessment transition period.

Rumour has it that the authorities were warned earlier this year that the assessments would not be available. If officialdom cannot cope with the rigours of self-assessment, what chance is there for the ordinary taxpayer?

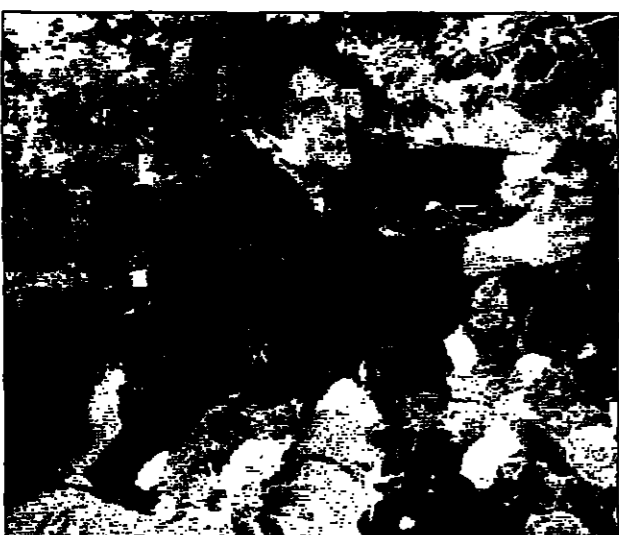
Protecting the public

THIS week Richard Youard, the Investment Ombudsman, revealed that he had paid out £220,000 in claims to wronged investors. A significant, but undisclosed percentage of this sum, went to the customers of one firm, whose identity is also under wraps.

The mysterious firm's advisers put clients into high-risk schemes, although most had specified the reverse. Staff were acting under duress, fearful for their jobs. One adviser questioned by the Ombudsman's office, remarked that his "hands would have been chopped off" if he had not followed "the party line".

This firm is now being investigated by one of the industry's watchdogs. But this is not enough.

The firm continues to operate, evidently with official authorisation. Unaware of its reputation, new clients could be entrusting their savings to its care. This secrecy is shielding only the firm's directors, not the public. It is a serious flaw in the system of investor protection.



MasterCard seeks blossoming sales with a new campaign

MasterCard goes for goal in Euro 96

AS EURO 96 kicks off today MasterCard, its sponsor, will be hoping to score a few goals of its own. A new advertising campaign launched this week attempts to persuade us that we can use our MasterCard as much as our Visa wherever we want.

MasterCard/Access accounts for 40 per cent of the UK market and Visa 60 per cent. George Strachan, senior vice president (Europe) of MasterCard International, said: "Many people do not realise that the MasterCard logo is actually on their credit card. Ninety-five per cent of the product is used at home."

We need to show people that MasterCard is understood and accepted globally."

The move comes at a time of a few on-pitch scuffles among the card providers themselves.

American companies, such as Advanta, People's Bank and soon to launch Capital One, are muscling in on the UK market with low-cost, no-frills cards. People's Bank has a 14.4 per cent APR and no annual fee.

The reaction of other issuers is twofold. First, rates have been lowered but only for new customers and only for an initial period. NatWest offers

new customers 12 per cent APR until August next year. The rate then rises to the normal 22.9 per cent. Secondly, issuers are expanding incentives and loyalty schemes. Last month Barclaycard joined NatWest in giving cardholders Air Miles.

Mark Austin, of RBS Advanta, says: "Many of the cards with incentive to spend are just a transaction tool, a form of debit card. We believe credit cards should be a cheap way to borrow. Our competitors do not want to get into a pricing war but they may have to. If customers move to a low-rate card, the issuers

will be left with the unprofitable customers — those who pay off their bill in full. So they will have to rethink the loyalty schemes, and logically you should gain points for how much you pay, not in transactions but in borrowing."

Like any loyalty scheme, you have to be a big spender to get the rewards. With Midland's Choice, you can reclaim the annual card fee if you spend £2,200. With Barclay Card's Profile, if you spend £21,000 you get two tickets to see Grease.

SARAH JONES

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Anne Ashworth on bonuses for dormant accounts

A fortune revived



A fortune lies in forgotten building society accounts. Sometimes the owners of these savings may not even be aware that the money exists. Fond grandparents will often open accounts for baby grandchildren but fail to inform them later that the investment has been made.

Although some societies will go to considerable lengths to alert customers with unused accounts, these letters do not always reach the saver.

Jaqueline Clay, a public relations consultant, discovered only two months ago that she had £825 in a National & Provincial Building Society Instant Reserve account. The account was opened at her birth in 1972 by her grandparents. However, the illness and subsequent death last year of her grandfather meant that the account had been overlooked.

At first, Miss Clay believed that she was entitled to benefit from the Abbey National's £1.35 billion takeover of the N&P. As an investor of more than two years' standing with the society, she would be in line to receive a £750 cash payment, plus 7 per cent of her balance in cash or shares.

However, she began to question her eligibility when she unearthed a sheaf of correspondence from N&P, stating that her account had been forfeited under a mysterious "Rule 9". The ambiguous details in the takeover prospectus added to her doubts. Miss Clay said: "I was ready to believe I would be excluded."



Jaqueline Clay was unaware of an N&P account set up by her grandparents

As I had already lost out to the tune of £1,000 in the Cheltenham & Gloucester deal. My brother had had C&G accounts which were held in trustee names. When the funds were transferred into new accounts, the old accounts were closed and our status as two-year savers disappeared."

This week, however, the N&P confirmed that anyone with forfeited accounts containing £100 or more would qualify as a two-year saver.

A spokeswoman explained that Rule 9 was not intended to deprive investors of their takeover rights, or of their

cash, but as a protection against fraud. She explained that all sums of more than £100 in dormant accounts were swept into the society's reserves. If the investor wished subsequently to use the account, he or she would have to provide proof of identity.

In November, the Halifax Building Society will be writing to members, informing them of their balance of their accounts at November 25, 1994, and reminding them that they must restore their accounts to the required level by the extraor-

dinary general meeting in February 1997. In the early Nineties, the Halifax moved all small dormant accounts into one large account. But it has recently reopened the accounts because some investors with several small accounts may have £100 or more invested with the society and so qualify to benefit for free shares.

Shares will be distributed to every member whose name and address is known to the Halifax. However, the society will retain shares where the post office has returned the last two mailings sent to the saver.

Woolwich outlines flotation payout terms

AS SPECULATION continues that the Prudential and Woolwich remain in talks about a takeover, the building society carries on with its progress towards a planned flotation next year.

Its latest move is to publish a series of leaflets, available free in 410 branches, that explain how qualifying members who have died since the end of last year or who do so before the actual conversion date are, in most cases, protected. The Woolwich has also outlined the terms of

the variable payout for many of the 3.5 million qualifying savers and borrowers. All qualifying members will receive a standard number of free shares worth around £750. However, members of two years' standing or more will receive another parcel of free shares, provided they have an overall account balance of more than £1,000 on two key dates. These are December 31, 1995, and the date of the special general meeting, which is expected to be in the first half of next year.

Minimum overall balance to be taken into account when allocating extra shares is £1,000 and the maximum is £50,000.

In view of speculation surrounding the Pru and Woolwich, first flagged in *The Times* in April, Donald Kirkham, acting group chief executive, said: "I would like to take this opportunity to reassure members that the society's conversion proposals are firmly on track."

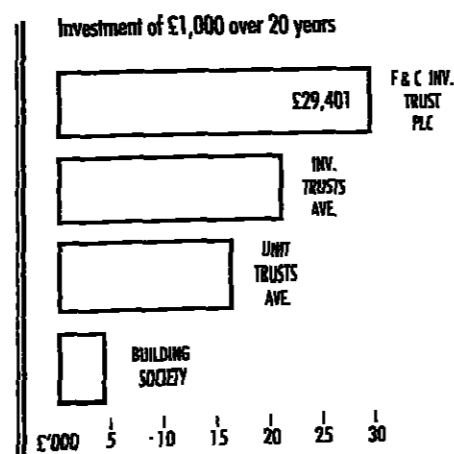
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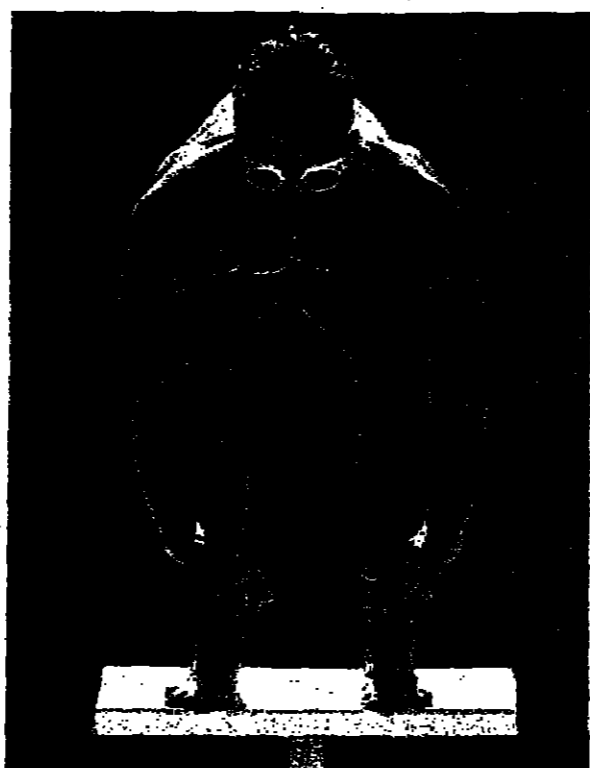
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Israel Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu must keep the economy buoyant and have a firm hold on inflation

Peace chase in Israel

Robert Miller on the vital timetable to build in a dividend for would-be investors

Political leaders elected to form a government generally do so with haste to assume high office and at the same time to mop any fevered stock market brows. In Israel they do things differently. Their incoming Prime Minister, in this case Benjamin Netanyahu, has a rather generous 45 days in which to form his Government.

But Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu does not have time on his side. He must indicate soon how he intends to take the Middle East peace process forward and how he will keep the economy buoyant while monitoring inflationary pressures. A healthy Israeli stock market is vital to the growing band of emerging market fund managers and their followers who are investing in the Near-East region. There is undoubtedly a peace dividend to be factored into the renewed investment interest in the region. But it also helped considerably when Israel last year joined the Morgan Stanley index of emerging markets. This

makes it a must for a fund that uses this particular index as a performance benchmark.

The Tel Aviv stock exchange dominates the region, which includes Turkey, in both size and liquidity. Its market capitalisation of \$35 billion compares with Egypt's \$6 billion and Jordan's \$5 billion. The Beirut exchange, which has recently reopened for business, has only four quoted companies with a collective worth of less than \$500 million. That figure, however, will leap to more than \$2 billion by the end of the year when Solidere, a real estate company, joins the market.

Tristan Clube, a director of Martin Currie, whose £65 million Emerging Markets unit trust has a 4 per cent exposure to the Near-East and which also runs a \$20 million offshore Near East Opportunities fund for institutional investors, says the recent

flotation on the Cairo market of the state-owned Nasr City, a real estate company, was very successful. The issue was helped considerably by a government underwriting and a heavy oversubscription. The result was a 25 per cent rise in the share price in the first two weeks alone.

Access to the nascent Palestinian economy through quoted companies is at present only possible through companies such as the Tel Aviv-listed Koor, the Israeli electronics to property conglomerate which has an exclusive cement contract with Gaza. Another example is Jordan Cement, listed on the Amman exchange.

The Israeli export-led economic success story extends not just to its neighbours but further afield to Asia and Eastern Europe and that looks set to continue. Roger Hornett, head of the Israel desk at

Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker that sponsored the launch two years ago of the £100 million Israel Fund, an investment trust, says that the Tel Aviv market "is at the cheapest level I have ever seen". Evidence of that is that the shares in the Israel Fund are currently trading at a 20 per cent discount to the net asset value of the shares in the underlying portfolio.

Mr Hornett adds: "The Israeli economy grew at 7 per cent last year and it was felt that a target GDP range of 6.5 per cent for this year was achievable. That has now been revised to 5.3 per cent. The appointment of an Israeli Cabinet is absolutely crucial and particularly the Finance Minister's post." The general feeling among fund managers is that Dan Meridor is the preferred candidate to Ariel Sharon. "But either way," says Mr Hornett, "it is essential that the Finance Ministry introduces a package of budget measures to keep the lid on inflationary pressures."

New markets attract Schroders

Schroders will call heavily on its offices in ten emerging-market countries and 50 experts dedicated to such investments for the launch of its new investment trust unveiled today.

The Schroder Emerging Countries investment trust, which will be officially launched on July 2, will complement the group's existing £277 million Global Emerging Markets unit trust.

John Govett, chairman of Schroder Investment Management, says: "The IMF has forecast that emerging countries will have annual GDP growth more than double that



of developed countries over the next three years.

"We believe that this should translate into superior returns for equity investors. For investors wanting to participate in these markets, a collective investment vehicle is much the most sensible approach."

Save & Prosper, another large investment and unit trust manager, has largely

eschewed the emerging markets theme for the relaunch of its £150 million Scotbills unit trust. It will henceforth be known as the S&P Growth fund. S&P says its new fund, which is fully PEPable, will have no initial or exit charge but will levy an annual fee of 1.5 per cent. It adds that its relaunched unit trust "is an assault on the no-load tracker fund market".

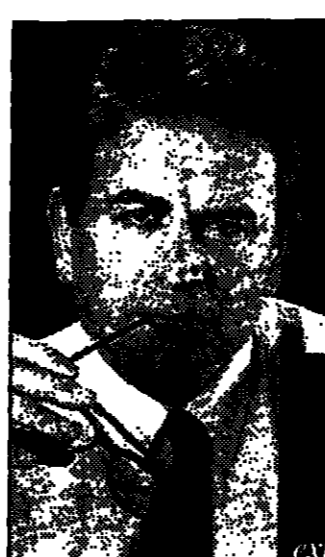
Schroders: 0800 002 000
S&P: 0800 829 100.

□ HSBC has sent out 13,000 letters to investors and financial advisers warning that its new HSBC PEP Plus has not

guaranteed to return the capital invested. The PEP, launched last month, was designed to feed into a new Dublin fund and qualified as a single company PEP and a general PEP. The brochure said capital was "secure" and it aimed to provide 133 per cent of any rise in the market.

Later promotional material included a newspaper article which said the capital was guaranteed. After discussions with IMRO, the regulator, the company has sent out letters to clarify the position. Call 0800 262115.

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Taxation loophole can delay payment

Special provisions to smooth the way for the new self-assessment tax rules have created a one-off loophole for the self-employed.

Towry Law, the Berkshire-based firm of independent financial advisers, has spotted an opportunity for the self-employed to reduce their tax bill using their pension.

If you make a pension payment before July 1 this year you can reduce your 1995-96 tax bill, due on July 1, by up to 40 per cent of the pension investment.

And the Inland Revenue will repeat the tax reduction when calculating this year's instalments, due at the end of January and July next year.

Eventually the tax will have to be paid at the end of January 1998, but the delay means that you get the equivalent of an interest-free loan of 20 per cent of the pension contributions for a year and 20 per cent for six months.

For example, a £10,000 pension payment will reduce your tax bill by £4,000 and this amount does not have to be paid back for two years.

Leila Sangar, head of private client tax services at Towry Law, says: "This too good to be true offer from the Inland Revenue will not be repeated in future years. This is a last chance to set full pension relief against your tax."

A leaflet explaining this opportunity is available free to readers of *The Times* by phoning Towry Law: 0800 521196.

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Lenders vie to offer lowest home-loan rates

The property market was given a strong boost this week after the cut in base rates and the subsequent wave of mortgage rate reductions. The 0.25 per cent drop in the base rate immediately prompted a mad scramble by the high street lenders to set new loan rates. Some of the biggest lenders chose to pass on the entire 0.25 per cent cut to their borrowers — bringing rates down from about 7.24 per cent to 6.99 per cent — some such as Direct Line and the Coventry decided to cut even further, to close to 6 per cent.

The monthly cost of a 6.99 per cent 25-year £60,000 repayment mortgage will now be £402.93 less than it was previously. A year ago the same type and size of mortgage would have cost about £450. This is the fifth time loan rates have been cut in the last 12 months and may be the final trigger for real recovery in the housing market. Although the Halifax has recently up-

graded its forecast for house prices rises over the year from 2 per cent to 5 per cent, housing analysts have expressed concern that the recovery may be fragile. There has not yet been a big increase in the number of transactions.

Lenders believe that the key to real recovery in the housing market will be the number of people in negative equity. According to the Woolwich, about 960,000 households have loans which are greater than the value of their property. The society calculates it would take a 9 per cent rise in prices to spring everyone from the negative-equity trap. The Halifax Building Society led the way in cutting rates, bringing its standard rate down from 7.25 per cent to 6.99 per cent. Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, said: "This latest cut represents a further 'shot in the arm' for the housing market and consumer confidence in general." Not all Halifax borrowers will feel the benefit of the cut straight away. Half

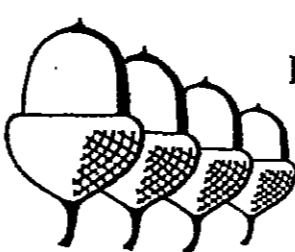
of the two million existing borrowers with variable rate mortgages will see their rates cut in August, while the rest who are on annual review (where rates change once a year) will have their rates adjusted early in 1997.

Other societies and banks which cut rates included the Northern Rock which also dropped its rate to 6.99 per cent, and the Abbey National which cut its rates by 0.25 per cent. Abbey National borrowers with loans of over £100,000 will now pay 6.94 per cent. Those with loans of between £60,000 and £99,999 will pay 6.99 per cent, while those with loans of less than £60,000 will pay 7.04 per cent. Existing borrowers will have to wait until September for the rate cut. The Woolwich also chose to cut its rates to 6.99 per cent, but said: "Savings rates are a key part of the delicate balancing act that all societies are

now having to perform. If a base rate cut affects mortgages, it will inevitably affect savings. But we are aware that savers can find an alternative home for their savings."

Again existing Woolwich borrowers will have to wait until August before they feel the benefit of any change. N&P also cut its rate to 7.04 from 7.29 per cent, and the Alliance & Leicester cut rates to 6.99. Bradford & Bingley, whose rate was 6.99 per cent, cut to 6.74 per cent. Nationwide and C&G did not immediately cut rates, but said they were keeping the situation under review. As more lenders move to cut rates, the pressure on those holding firm will intensify. Nationwide, which recently launched a package of mutual benefits for its borrowers and savers, said its rate was still lower than the Halifax's at 6.74 per cent.

CAROLINE MERRELL



A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT & UNIT TRUSTS

PART 4

Smaller savers keep in rhythm

Helen Pridham considers unit and investment trusts as alternatives to normal savings accounts

For anyone wishing to save money regularly, two attractive options are unit and investment trust savings plans. Their cost, potential returns and flexibility put them in a league of their own. If accessed via a personal equity plan (PEP), they are tax-free.

Roger Jennings of M&G believes there is a large market of people who do not have lump sums to invest, but who would like to save regularly to build up some capital.

Most small savers who do not want to get locked into long-term endowments or pension plans end up stashing odd sums of money in the building society. But many societies are no longer keen on accepting small sums and even those that do cannot offer very high returns in the current low interest rate climate. Unit and investment trust companies do not discriminate against small savers.

On the contrary, they are prepared to accept regular savings as low as £20 to £25 a month, usually on the same terms as if you have £1,000 or more to invest. For a small monthly outlay you have access to a wide range of trusts investing in UK and overseas markets and to top fund managers such as Perpetual, Morgan Grenfell and Schroders.

Recent performance figures from Microcap show that £50 a month saved over the past five years (£3,000 in total) in the average UK income and growth unit trust would now be worth £4,166, a gain of 38 per cent. Tax-free returns, if you invest through a PEP, are even higher. Savers who want to minimise risk could choose a corporate bond or cash unit trust.

When you start a unit or

investment trust savings plan, you are normally encouraged to set up a standing order or direct debit to make the administration easy, but you are not forced to save for any specified period.

Research by Barclays Unicorn has found that people particularly like this aspect of the schemes.

"They liked the idea of the discipline of regular savings, but in these uncertain times they also valued the fact that they could stop their contributions without penalty if needs be," said Paul Ashby, Barclays Unicorn marketing manager. Many people continue saving for lengthy periods. M&G recently checked on a group

Because of the small sums involved initially, it can also take two or three years for the fund managers to recoup the cost of even a short burst of advertising their schemes.

Attitudes may be changing, however. Companies are beginning to see the merit in the bank and building society approach of trying to catch 'em young.

Paul Ashby agrees: "If you can attract people via a savings scheme initially, there is more likelihood that when they do have lump sums to invest, they will come to you with that money too."

"Savings schemes help us to sell to a younger age group than we normally attract — people in their late 30s to early 40-year-olds who don't have lump sums at present. When they do get a bit extra they tend to add it to their existing holdings."

Charges on savings schemes are usually the same as for lump sums. Some investment trust managers have no initial charges at all, even when the scheme involves a PEP wrapper. They include Abtrust, Finsbury Asset Management and Personal Assets.

With unit trust plans, the usual charge of 5 per cent is deducted initially, although regular savers who want a PEP can opt for M&G's Managed Growth Fund, which has no front-end charge, or Save & Prosper Direct's Growth Fund, which is also no-load.

One of the cheapest regular savings PEPs is HSBC's Footsie tracker plan, which has no initial charge and a 1 per cent annual charge. At M&G and HSBC the minimum monthly saving is £50, while Save & Prosper sets a £35 minimum.

For a small monthly outlay you have access to a wide range of trusts

that had started saving in 1985 and found that after ten years more than half were still doing so. Besides being able to stop and start your savings at your discretion, there are also no restrictions on when you can cash in.

Although it is best to regard any investment in shares as a medium to long-term investment of five years or more, it is often reassuring to know you can get at your money if you need it.

One of the reasons savings plans are not promoted more is the low commissions they yield to salesmen and financial advisers, compared with other forms of savings.



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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Supermarket club card war heats up

Never has so little been appreciated by so many. Logic said that the supermarket loyalty card would be a short-lived gimmick, but customers flocked to it. Indeed, so successful has it been that Tesco is now using its Clubcard as a springboard into financial services.

In a week's time, Tesco customers can apply for an improved version of the Clubcard, called Clubcard Plus. The main attraction is that Clubcard Plus will give 5 per cent gross annual interest on deposits, guaranteed until the end of the year. That's ten times higher than most bank and building society current accounts and 20 times higher than the 0.25 per cent rates offered by National Westminster, which is running the scheme for Tesco.

Under the existing scheme, shoppers earn money-back

Tesco is further blurring the line between retailing and financial services. Sarah Jones reports

vouchers based on the amount they spend. With Tesco's new scheme, aimed at customers who pay for their weekly trolley-full with a credit card, there are added debit, credit and interest-paying facilities.

Liz Mandeville, of RMDP, a research consultancy, says: "It's been on the cards for some time that retailers would move into limited banking operations. The schemes are easy to set up, with the help of a bank, and are an effective way of keeping customers."

"People are reluctant to set up direct debits, but, once they have, they rarely cancel them, and so will continue to spend

the money at the supermarket. The rate of interest on this card will probably pull customers in."

Customers will deposit money with Tesco through a monthly standing order on their bank and pay with the card when they buy groceries or petrol from Tesco. They can earn points on their shopping, as well as the 5 per cent interest on their deposit. They can also apply for a modest overdraft — usually equal to their monthly standing order — and be charged 9 per cent interest a year. That rate is fixed only to the end of this year, but it is half the rate that

banks might charge. On top of all that, Clubcard Plus can be used to draw money from NatWest cash tills.

Although Tesco happily admits that the average reward on its Clubcard is just £5.16 every three months — that's 40p a week, compared with the average weekly spend of £75 — 8.5 million customers have taken up the Clubcard and 6.5 million have stayed loyal. Tesco expects yet more customers with the new card.

Mike Dennis, food retailing analyst with NatWest Securities, says: "More services will be added gradually to the basic card. For the moment, NatWest is happy to draw custom away from other credit cards and Tesco is upping the ante in the loyalty card market."

Clubcard's success has forced Sainsbury to revamp its Saver Card substantially — widely rumoured to be launching next week, in alliance with the Royal Bank of Scotland, though neither retailer nor bank would confirm details. Sainsbury, meanwhile, has its Added Bonus Card, which gives free products, in-store services and other "family offers" as well as the usual vouchers. Asda has a petrol Fill 'n' Save card and is piloting the Asda Club card. Only Waitrose seems to be bucking the trend, sticking to its charge card.

Tesco is joining a flood of UK retailers and non-banking companies that are moving into the crowded financial services industry.

Tomorrow, Virgin launches its Life Insurance and Survival Plan as part of a policy gradually to expand its financial products. The first life policyholder is former Scottish Widows Deborah Moore. Pensions are expected in late summer. Virgin



Scottish Widows is Virgin's first Life policyholder

started off last year with personal equity plans (Peps). These have attracted £25m from 65,000 customers. That is dwarfed by a provider such as Fidelity, which has £1 billion from 200,000 Peps holders.

Marks & Spencer has also added pensions and life insurance to its personal loan and unit trust business. It admits the new products have had a slow start, but claims they are now on target.

Meanwhile, British Gas has confirmed that it is looking closely at financial services, and Volkswagen, which already owns a bank in Germany, is stretching its banking operation across Europe.

Ambrose McGinn, Abbey National's marketing director, says: "When a financial service is related to the retailing, such as a supermarket budget

account or car finance, then it is broadly acceptable to consumers. But when companies stretch their brand into pensions and savings, they also stretch consumers' sense of trust. To sell such products, you need to build up trust over many years."

The new brands coming into financial services make a lot of noise, but the amount of business that they gain is modest compared with the total market.

Life companies, too, are pushing out their tentacles into new areas. Prudential is to launch its banking operation in October, offering deposit accounts and mortgages, by telephone and its direct sales force. Later in the year, Standard Life will also open deposit accounts.

Scottish Widows opened its own bank a year ago and runs four deposit accounts, including a Tessa, which currently pays 6 per cent. All Scottish Widows policyholders have the option to transfer their maturing policy funds into a deposit account at the bank. The Interest Access Account pays from 4.75 to 5.75 per cent gross per annum, and the 60 Day Notice Account from 5 to 6 per cent gross. The bank has recently revamped its policy loan product and is looking at other forms of lending, including mortgages.

Graeme Hartop, the finance director of Scottish Widows, says: "There is a definite trend of life companies moving into banking. Short-term accounts fit in well with life products because each year funds worth billions of pounds mature and companies want to capture that market."

Additional research by Lizanne Rose

Caroline Merrell on energy

Sweeteners to generate power sale

The sale of British Energy was given a fillip this week with the announcement of a range of incentives aimed at encouraging private investors. These incentives will be available only to those who apply for shares in the company through the UK Public Offer. The sweeteners will also apply only to those who decide to purchase their shares through a share shop.

Investors will be given a choice of either an instalment discount or bonus shares. The discount will be equivalent to 10p off the second instalment on the shares they purchase in the UK Public Offer. The maximum number of shares that the discount can be applied to is 1,200 — giving a maximum reduction of £120.

The reduction in the initial price for those who apply for shares through the public offer will be set at the end of June. The discount on the second instalment of shares will not be affected by the reduction in the initial price.

If shareholders do not want to opt for the instalment discount, they can instead choose bonus shares. These shares will be equivalent to one share for every 15 shares allocated. To qualify for the bonus, the shares must be held continuously until July 31, 1999.

The pathfinder prospectus for British Energy, which comprises of eight nuclear power stations, will be published next week. Those interested in buying shares in the company can register at one of the 100 or more share shops up and down the country.

These shops are reporting a higher than expected interest in the nuclear sell-off. Many of those considering an investment in British Energy may find, however, that they are on holiday when the applications have to be made. Meanwhile, British Gas shareholders had a slightly better week, with the announcement of further controls on the company's supply business. The controls are expected to cut a further £8 off the average household bill, and around £60 million off the profits of the supply company of British Gas.

This would appear to be bad news for "Sids", but in fact the share price of British Gas rose slightly on the announcement of the review. Analysts had feared that Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, was

going to introduce much tougher controls on the company.

Ms Spottiswoode's regulatory action against TransCo, British Gas's pipeline and transport business, which was announced last month, has already had a catastrophic effect on the British Gas share price.

The review of this side of the business is expected to cost the company up to £850 million. It will, though, bring with it a saving of around £30 a year on the average household's gas bill. When the regulator announced these price curbs, British Gas's share price fell 7p, wiping £1.2 billion off the price of the company. The price has now rebounded slightly off its 17p level to stand at around 188p. The response to the regulator's plan will come next week.

Some believe that the company may be able to water down the proposals. What ever happens, it is likely that the plans will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The outcome of any investigation by the MMC will take some months to come to fruition, leaving shareholders in an uncertain position.

Railtrack shares dropped slightly over the week to stand at around 215p, down from the initial post-privatisation peak of 227p. Railtrack was sold at 190p.

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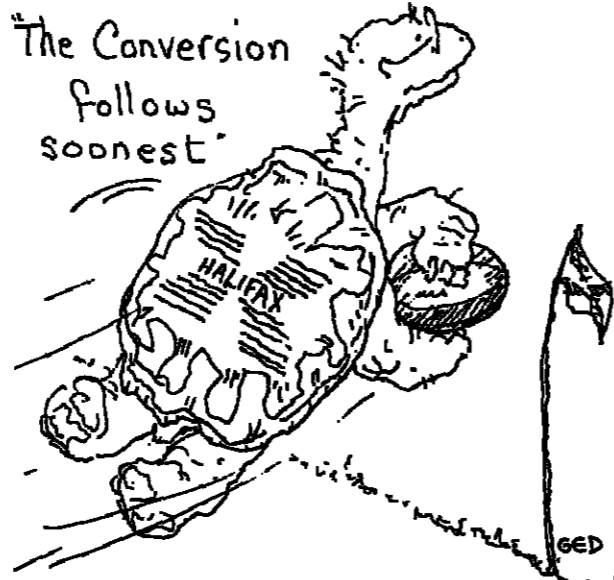
Why is the Halifax dragging its feet over conversion?

From Mr W. Sholto
Sir, Congratulations to your correspondent Serge Lourie (Weekend Money Letters, May 25) and his Halifax Action Group for raising the issue of the extraordinary slow pace at which the conversion to the status of bank is being pursued by Halifax Building Society.

As Mr Lourie points out, the conversion was first announced in late 1994 and 18 months later, the building society is talking about effecting the change. Possibly, in another 15 months. In other words, they contemplate that demutualisation will take a whole 33 months, or two years and nine months. No conversion has ever been as slow as this before, and compared with the Halifax, a tortoise must be considered to be a rather swift species of animal. Why such a long delay?

I should like to have put that question to my local Leeds Building Society branch, but cannot because it has been closed after being taken over by the Halifax. Nor could I get any answer from the local Halifax, perhaps because they do not want to hear that question being asked once again.

"We simply do not believe that it should take over two years and three months to prepare for a vote in February 1997," says Mr Lourie. Very many savers who are inconvenienced by the ultra-slow demutualisation will endorse his words, especially since a much more rapid change was originally envisaged. Is the Halifax in worse trouble than we had suspected? Whatever



the cause — which has not been communicated to savers — there is no doubt that many of them have been put out and some may have suffered losses as a result of the undue delay, which incidentally gives the lie to many reports in Weekend Money suggesting that savers would benefit if their money was in building societies that demutualised.

No one should assume that the Halifax is acting dishonestly in prolonging the de-

mutualisation, yet suspicions do grow with the inordinately lengthy process of conversion. Perhaps Halifax, when it eventually achieves the coveted status of bank, should adopt a coat of arms with the Euro-speak motto *confuturo demutui* to reflect its protracted evolution.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM SHOLTO,
Laurandria,
Tudor Road,
Barnet, Herts.

Inefficiency over tax treatment by managers of friendly societies

From Mr J.P. Whariton
Sir, As another disappointed investor in "tax-free" friendly societies funds, I welcome your publicity (Friendly societies lose some friends, May 18) in the hope that it may encourage the manager to try harder. However, I was not encour-

aged by the fact that the Family Assurance Society recently had to reissue tax statements for annuity bonds because the rate of income tax had to be corrected (a change which took place last November!). The cost of this administra-

Banks and junk mail

From Lieutenant-Colonel D.G. Tweed
Sir, I have been a customer of my bank since January 1935. Today, I have received by first-class post a typed note (from a branch which does not hold my account) which said as follows:

"We have received a letter to be forwarded to you. If we do not hear from you within seven days, we will forward the letter to you and an administrative fee of £5 will be made."

By telephone, I established that some branches are grouped together and my letter had been typed on another's headed paper!

Lots of apologies, but it is now the policy of that bank to write such a letter because customers have been complaining of getting "junk mail" forwarded by their banks.

This must be a doubtful solution to the bank's problem. I am glad to say that my own branch manager will use his discretion and I hope the bank would reconsider its policy.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TWEED,
9 Upper Old Park Lane,
Farnham, Surrey.

direct error will be borne, directly or indirectly, by the investors.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WHARLTON,
Myrtle Cottage,
6 Carlew Terrace,
Devoran,
Truro, Cornwall.

Savers hit again as loan rates fall

Rather late in the day building societies are beginning to express concern about their savers. After the last base rate cut in March, providers across the board reduced their savings rates to a 50-year low. Now, after Thursday's further 0.25 per cent cut, several lenders claim that concern for investors may stop them cutting the borrowers' rate. But do not hold your breath: lenders that have cut their mortgage rates hint that they will have to sacrifice savers yet again.

"Savings rates are a key part of the delicate balancing act that all societies are now having to perform. But a cut in mortgages will inevitably affect savings," said a spokeswoman for the Woolwich.

Abbey National, which initially announced that it would not lower its mortgage rate because it had 10 million savers to consider, said it is a matter of competition. Margaret Schwarz, chief economist, said: "Competition is as fierce in the savings market as in mortgages. If

one provider cuts rates, others will have to follow. We are keenly aware that there is competition in the savings market from unusual sources like the new Tesco card. But the chances are that cuts will have to come, though possibly only on certain products."

Northern Rock claims its cost efficiency in mortgage lending means there is no pressure to cut savings rates in any great hurry, while the Coventry says that for once they have several months to review the situation, since the new mortgage rate does not start until August.

As if other providers, who have yet to cut mortgage rates, claim they are trying to strike a balance between mortgage and savings rates. One area of savings that will be affected with or without lenders cutting rates is fixed-rate accounts. John Gully, head of corporate affairs at the Portman, said: "The base rate cut will reduce the return societies can get on fixed-rate investments and that

reduction will be reflected in new fixed-rate products. Once we have filled the quota on our current bond, for example, we will have to bring our fixed rate down. So if you are thinking of getting a fixed rate, do it quickly."

Some providers believe the savings market has already been disrupted enough over the past year. John Milton, National Counties manager, said: "Merger speculation means some societies have benefited from short-term, small accounts. Meanwhile, there are many savers locked into societies waiting for their merger or conversion bonus. If other societies want to attract investors they will have to hold on to good rates. If they are not careful they could lose funds to other investments, like equities."

Mortgage rates are at a 50-year low but savers have taken the brunt of that. A middle-band instant-access account currently pays just 2.36 per cent net.

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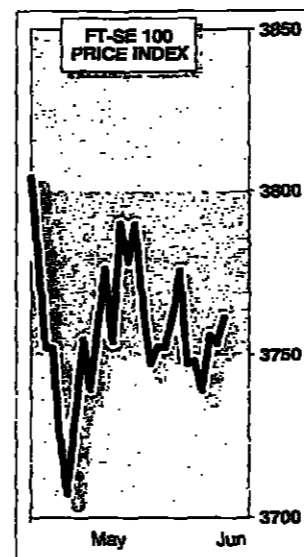
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THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 8 1996

Gilts and equities sharply lower

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High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

BANKS	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
Barclays	1.20	1.18	Barclays	1.19	-1.7	12.5
HSBC	1.10	1.08	HSBC	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Midland	1.00	0.98	Midland	0.99	-2.0	11.0
NatWest	1.30	1.28	NatWest	1.29	-1.5	13.0
Paragon	1.40	1.38	Paragon	1.39	-1.4	14.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0
Paragon	1.40	1.38	Paragon	1.39	-1.4	14.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

FOOD MANUFACTURERS	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

HEALTHCARE	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

INSURANCE	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

MEDIA	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

OTHER FINANCIAL	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

RETAILERS, FOOD	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

RETAILERS, GENERAL	High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	% PE
AB InBev	10.50	10.40	AB InBev	10.45	-0.5	15.2
Asahi	1.20	1.18	Asahi	1.19	-1.7	12.5
Beck's	1.10	1.08	Beck's	1.09	-1.8	11.8
Brewery	1.00	0.98	Brewery	0.99	-2.0	11.0
Carlsberg	1.30	1.28	Carlsberg	1.29	-1.5	13.0

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

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High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

RETAILERS, GENERAL	High	Low
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THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 8 1996

THE TIMES SATURDAY

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GOLF

Finalists confound pundits as Giner and Wiggins lose

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IF YESTERDAY morning, canvassing had gone on for the most likely finalists in the Amateur Championship, then the favoured names would probably have been Robert Wiggins, the Englishman, and Ivo Giner, from Spain. Wiggins, who comes from Slaley Hall, outside Newcastle, had played well in two important amateur events in England and won a third before heading north, while the ball-striking and power of Giner were just two of his assets.

So much for form. Giner had to leave the magnificent stage of the Ailsa course when he was defeated on the 19th hole of his quarter-final match by Roger Beames. And then

Wiggins lost to Warren Bladon in a semi-final.

So, today's 36-hole final will be between Beames, a losing semi-finalist last year, and Bladon. If ever a man's achievements exceeded his ambitions then Bladon's have. He started the week wanting to do no more than qualify for the matchplay stages of this historic event; now he is 36 holes away from winning it.

The youthful ambitions of Fraser McLaughlan got no further than the quarter-finals when Bladon won by one hole. No praise is too high for the gawky young Scot, 17, who will now concentrate his efforts on the world boys junior championships in Japan in two weeks' time, but his putting, which had looked suspiciously frail the previous day, let him down on the last green when he took three of them from 30 feet.

Beames's long, flowing method bore little resemblance to the flat, rather quick swing of Steve Bodenheimer in the other semi-final. The word "deliberate" was not adequate for Bodenheimer, who was slow over the ball, fiddling and fidgeting. But while he would have got few marks for style, he would have scored many for accuracy.

Beames raced into a two-hole lead. The American got one hole back by reaching the 7th in two during a run of holes in which Beames seemed to hit too many shots out to the right, but, on the 8th, Bodenheimer three-putted. Beames, his power beginning to tell, moved strongly ahead and won by 3 and 2.

Bladon hit only four of the first 17 greens against Wiggins and took only ten putts on the front nine, twice chipping in. He was chipping and putting miraculously, probably using up a month's allocation of luck. He has a tendency when under pressure to drop his right shoulder and to push shots out to the right.

The trouble was that Wiggins could not put him under pressure. Wiggins, who has a pre-shot routine similar to Bodenheimer's in its regularity and complexity, only squared the match on the 14th when he holed a 30-foot putt. Before each putt, incidentally, he has four or five vigorous practice swings, as if he is giving the ball a wiggling. A beautifully flighted iron on the 15th gave him the lead for the first time.

Bladon squared the match on the 17th by pitching to two feet and then it all descended into nervousness. Wiggins drove far too far right into the green, hacked out and hit his third 20 yards past the flag. Bladon, whose second shot rolled over the green, appeared to thin his pitch back so that the ball rolled 50 feet past the flag. In a notably undistinguished finish, Wiggins holed out in six. Bladon in five. Bladon will need to be much more accurate today.

Montgomery, positive character that he is, said that he was not writing himself off in this tournament, and that nobody else should, either. "It could have been a lot lower," he said. "I'll just have to do a bit better over the weekend."

"I'm definitely not looking at a place, I'm looking to win, and I think a couple of 67s will put me fairly close." Two 67s? If it was anybody else but the confident Montgomery, one would have concluded that the heat had gone to his head.

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Woodsman used a broom-handle putter, which he has wielded once before in competition, and said that he will probably use it in the US Open next week. For Woodsman, martyr to a creaky back that he is, the benefit of

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RACING: CECIL CELEBRATES SECOND FILLIES' CLASSIC SUCCESS OF SEASON

Lady Carla stays in class of her own

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

WAFIC SAID'S recent decision to expand his racing interests has paid off handsomely. His Bosra Sham looked sure to be feted as Europe's outstanding three-year-old filly after her 1,000 Guineas victory but Lady Carla, sporting the same livery, stalked her own claim to the accolade when running away with the Vodafone Oaks at Epsom yesterday.

It was a crushing performance from an animal bred for the occasion. And there

BIG-RACE RESULT

4.05 VODAFONE OAKS (Group 1, 3-Y-O Fillies, £201,000, 1m 4f 10yd)
LADY CARLA b f (Caelan) - Sharkey
Superior (W. Sals) 9-0 For Eddery (100-30)
Pricklet ch f (Dase) - Caeli (Godolphin)
S.O. Dorian (7-4 fav)
Mesopotamia b f (Unkman) - Aque (Mrs R Phillips) 8-0 C Amussen (14-1) 3.
ALSO RAN: 9 Camporese (4th), Whitehouse (5th), 10 Bink Salazar (11th), 11 Honest Guest (16th), 12 Faraway Waters, Moody's Cat (5th), 200 Sharkey Venture (11th), 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Richard Evans napped Lady Carla, while Robert Wright selected her at 10-1 in his Racing Ahead column



Eddery eases Lady Carla down after her runaway success in the Vodafone Oaks at Epsom yesterday

was added poignantly as Lady Carla distanced herself from Pricklet, her former stablemate at Warren Place who was shut out of Dubai, on Sheikh Mohammed's public divorce from Henry Cecil in October.

The outcome suggested that a fully-focused Cecil is more than a match for the expertise of Godolphin. "That was very exciting," the trainer said as he acknowledged a rapturous reception. "My filly had come to a peak and I knew she was ready for it. I can't tell you how much I'm enjoying the game at the moment."

RICHARD EVANS'S NAPS

Nap: DUSHYANTOR (2.25 Epsom)
Next best: Dance So Suite (3.10 Epsom)

Nap: TO THE ROOF (3.40 Epsom tomorrow)
Next best: Supercal (2.00 Epsom tomorrow)

THUNDERER'S OTHER SELECTIONS

TODAY: Southwell: 6.50 Top Spin, 7.15 Lady Blakeney, 7.45 Salska's Hero, 8.15 Blue Raven, 8.45 Nacachim, 9.15 Papa's Boy, Wolverhampton: 7.00 Beau Bruno, 7.30 Cretan Gift, 8.00 Three Arch Bridge, 8.30 Wandara, 9.00 Ginny Wossemare, 9.30 Old School House, Worcester: 3.00 Limosa, 3.30 Muskara, 4.00 How's It Goin', 4.30 Born To Please, 5.05 Charged, 5.40 Regal Gem, 6.10 Sarenacore.

TOMORROW: Epsom: 2.00 Supercal, 2.35 Domitia, 3.10 Wayne County, 3.40 Crowded Avenue, 4.10 Devere, 4.40 BLUE FLYER (nap), 5.10 Zinedine, 5.40 Sovereign Niche, 6.25 Lemon's Mill, 6.55 Javani, 7.25 Factor Ten, 7.55 Penbridge Place, 8.25 Northern Trial.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Epsom
Going: good (good to firm in places)
2.15 (61) 1. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 2. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 3. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 4. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 5. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 6. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 7. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 8. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 9. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 10. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 11. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 12. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 13. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 14. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 15. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 16. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 17. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 18. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 19. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 20. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 21. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 22. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 23. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 24. Grassy's Path (11-2) (Q), 2.15 (61) 25. 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THE DERBY

Classic breeding can point way for Dushyantor

THE form book may point to the most open Vodafone Derby for years at Epsom this afternoon, but the bloodlines of the 21 runners tell a different story. Quite simply, DUSHYANTOR was born to race at Epsom and win the world's most famous classic.

Breeding is not everything, but the stamina and class possessed by the son of Sadler's Wells, combined with his progressive form, convince me the Khalid Abdulla-owned colt can provide Henry Cecil and Pat Eddery with their fourth success in the Blue Riband.

Dushyantor's lineage would have Debutante equine division purring with pleasure. His mother and grandmother were second in the Oaks, while his great grandmother, Noblesse, went one better in 1963.

His half-brother, Commander In Chief, won the Derby for the same connections three years ago while Rainbow Quest, closely related on his dam's side, won the group one Coronation Cup at Epsom in 1985. Dushyantor's paternal grandfather, the mighty Northern Dancer, sired Derby winners in Nijinsky, The Minstrel and Secretariat. The family motto might read: To The Epsom Downs Boys.

Conceived in Ireland, but born in Kentucky on April 11, 1993, it was not long before the bay colt impressed all who saw him. With Cecil having trained Commander In Chief, he was always favourite to inherit the most admired of Abdullah's yearlings and the ten-times champion trainer has long considered him his main Derby hope.

He ran once as a two-year-old, winning in a style which suggested better to come. This season, Dushyantor won a three-runner affair at Newmarket, before just failing to catch Glory Of Dancer in a falsey-run Dante Stakes.

His form and time performances are not outstanding. However, they were achieved in races not run to suit him.



Richard Evans
Racing Journalist
of the Year

Today, for the first time, he will have an end-to-end gallop over a stiff mile and a half, which will see the Derby favourite come into his element.

Significantly, Dushyantor is considered to have more tactical speed than Commander In Chief. A notoriously lazy worker at home, he sparked earlier this week after Cecil deliberately walked him through the town at Newmarket on the way to the gallops.

The confidence behind

THE EXPERTS' VIEW

RICHARD EVANS

1. DUSHYANTOR
2. Mystic Night
3. St Mawes

JULIAN MUSCAT

1. DUSHYANTOR
2. Double Leaf
3. Busy Flight

GERALD HUBBARD

1. EVEN TOP
2. Alhaarth
3. Busy Flight

THUNDERER

1. STORM TROOPER
2. Dushyantor
3. Busy Flight

Dushyantor has never been higher and, having recommended him two months ago when on offer at 33-1, I believe he will win decisively.

Strict adherents to the form book will opt for Even Top, runner-up in the 2,000 Guineas. The Newmarket classic was undeniably the best Derby trial and Mark Tompkins' unfashionably bred colt should lack nothing in stamina. However, he is a heavy-topped horse who looked ill at ease running into the Dip at Newmarket and is not certain to be suited by Epsom's cambers and undulations. His preparation has also been interrupted by a poisoned foot.

Alhaarth, the ante-post favourite throughout the winter, has disappointed this season. Although reported to have worked pleasingly of late, he is not certain to stay a mile and a half and his rider, Willie Carson, is hardly brimming with confidence.

Glory Of Dancer beat Dushyantor in the Dante Stakes, but Paul Kelleway's runner has had operations to both front ankles and could be the fancied runner most inconvenienced by the track and fast ground.

Those looking for an each-way interest may like to consider three runners at more generous prices. Jack Hastings was only a length behind Dushyantor at York, is bred to stay the trip and looks over-priced at 25-1.

Mystic Knight has improved with every race during his career and, after winning the Lingfield Derby Trial, could easily be in the shake-up. Roger Charlton, who won the race with Quest For Fame in 1990, has been pleased with his recent work and the colt will love the fast ground.

St Mawes is another to have thrived since being placed in three significant trials and, given his stamina, Lord Swaythling's colt could reach the frame.

Leading article, page 21

Epsom's first lady comes under orders

A woman rides in the Derby for the first time. Alex Greaves is keen to do herself justice



Greaves and her Derby ride, Portuguese Lil, enjoy the Epsom sunshine before their big challenge

A year ago I rode at Epsom for the first time, finishing fifth in a handicap on Pride Of Penide. Nobody paid me much attention that day. This year has been different to say the least. The phone hasn't stopped ringing for the last fortnight.

Since I married David Nicholls two years ago, I've retained my maiden name in racing circles, but that's just because it's easier. Outside the racetrack, I'm Mrs Nicholls. I'm not trying to make any particular point by being the first woman to ride in the Derby, and I'm not a feminist. I'm just lucky to have been offered the ride.

Portuguese Lil was sent to David last summer, and even though I knew then that the intention was to run her in the Derby, it still hasn't sunk in that I'm going to make history today. Maybe I'll be a bag of nerves come 2 o'clock, but I'm just going out there to do my best and enjoy it, as it will probably be the only chance I get.

I won't be tucking into a huge breakfast this morning — just a cup of coffee — but that won't be because of nerves. I'm not one of the lucky ones that can eat anything, and it is a constant battle to maintain my riding weight at 13st 4lb. The long cold spell hasn't helped, so that from now on it has reduced my chances to sweat the weight off, but now the warmer weather has arrived it should get a little easier.

David and I have stayed in a hotel in Epsom for the last two nights, which we wouldn't usually do, but we had to be here in time for yesterday morning's canter and it's a long way from our yard at Sessay, in North Yorkshire, to Epsom.

We'll meet the owners mid-morning and then go down to the course and finalise our tactics. The Derby is my first ride today, so I will not start getting ready until about one. There is a Ladies' changing room at Epsom, but I will be the only jockey using it so it should be the quietest place

on the course. I won't hang about there. I'll change as quickly as possible and head outside to join the other jockeys.

Portuguese Lil has plenty of pace, so she should be able to hold her own in the early stages. The fast ground won't bother her at all, and she's bred to stay, being by Master Willie, who was runner-up in the 1980 Derby, out of a mare who was by the 1977 Derby winner, The Minstrel.

I cantered Portuguese Lil around Tattenham Corner yesterday morning, although we had to go wide around the bend as the inside of the track was dolled off. She's a well-balanced filly and I think she'll handle the track at

the course. I won't hang about there. I'll change as quickly as possible and head outside to join the other jockeys.

I've spoken to several of the other jockeys with Derby experience, in particular Frankie Dettori and the Hills

ON MONDAY

Read Alex Greaves exclusively in The Times on Monday

twins, and watched videos of as many past Derbys as possible. I'm pretty well prepared, although they tell me that the first two furlongs will be the fastest I've ever gone. I know a lot of people think

Portuguese Lil is not good enough to run in the Derby, but they said the same before the 1,000 Guineas and we beat three home. Also, she's not the lowest-rated horse in the race — Clive Brittain's Spartan Heartbeat is officially worse. I certainly don't think we'll be disgraced.

I've ridden horses since I was three or four but it was never my ambition to be a jockey. I started working at David Barron's yard near Thirsk because my mother, Val, was assistant trainer there. I rode my first winner when I was 21 — on Andrew's First on the all-weather track at Southwell in December 1989.

I've ridden in more than

100 races this year, but only two have been for outside stables, which is a shame.

It's difficult for girls to make it as jockeys in Britain. We make the best of the chances we get but they're hard to find. I think that the new whip rules, which limit its use, have helped to put the emphasis on ability rather than strength and, hopefully, that will make things easier. I feel that I can hold my own, and I'm not looking for any favours from the lads.

Unless we win today, I think we'll just have a quiet meal with the owners tonight. I've got to ride again tomorrow!

Interview: Robert Wright

RACELINE
0930 168+
COMMENTARY
EPSON 101 201
HAYDOCK 102 202
DONCASTER 103 203
WORCESTER 104 204
NEWMARKET 105 205
SOUTHWELL 106 206
WIMBORNE 107 207
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

EPSON
THUNDERER
1.45 Bowden Rose, 2.25 Storm Trooper, 3.10 Casual Water, 3.50 Horn Express, 4.25 Singespil, 5.00 Premier Bay, 5.30 ALMUSHTASH (nap).
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.25 Dushyantor, 4.25 SINGSPIEL, (nap).
GOING: GOOD DRAW: SF, HIGH NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

3.50 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP
(231,795; 1m 21 10yd) (16)
401 (6) 85-0 ELA-ARISTONARI 42 (D.F.S.) L. Comer 4-9-10
402 (6) 85-0 MARELINGA 42 (D.F.S.) R. Haines 4-9-10
403 (6) 135- ELIE ADEPHY 252 (D.F.S.) J. Farnham 4-9-10
404 (12) 0056 HON EXPRESS 12 (D.F.S.) J. Bolding 4-9-10
405 (6) 118- STONE RIDGE 18 (D.F.S.) R. Haines 4-9-10
406 (12) 135- ELIE ADEPHY 252 (D.F.S.) J. Farnham 4-9-10
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414 (6) 118- STONE RIDGE 18 (D.F.S.) R. Haines 4-9-10
415 (12) 135- ELIE ADEPHY 252 (D.F.S.) J. Farnham 4-9-10

EPSON CHANNEL 4
1.45: Stakes should be kept to a minimum in this cavalry charge but Bowden Rose makes some appeal on her second to Top Banana over five furlongs at Newmarket seven days ago. Michael Blanshard's sprinter is definitely better over today's six furlongs, having won four times last year over the distance, including over Brighton's undulating track. Lennox Lewis is particularly well handicapped on his best form but has not won since his two-year-old days and the in-form Thatcheralla — second in this race last year — could be a bigger danger.
2.25: See above.
3.10: Paul Cole entered the in-form Dance So Svelte for yesterday's much tougher rated stakes. Despite not being the best handicapped runner in this race, he looks well

Swain looks first choice
hat-trick at Goodwood, despite being stepped back in trip. Returned to his best distance today. Ben Hanbury's runner is sure to give a good account. Hardy Dancer was beaten less than two lengths by Hugwig at Chester and is 7lb better off. However, some value might be had with Tertium, who won at Beverley in May then improved again behind Migwar at Redcar 12 days ago. Martyn Wane's runner did not have a clear run until the final furlong and can gain some measure of compensation here.
4.25: André Fabre looks likely to enhance his outstanding record in the Coronation Cup, but with which runner? Swain, third in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe last year, ran particularly well on his seasonal reappearance over an inadequate trip and is marginally preferred to De Quest.
RICHARD EVANS

Hot weather. High pressure. Good ground. Now for the Storm.
(Storm Trooper's Derby: 6/1.)
Call 0990 524 524
1. Have your betbook or betbook ready.
2. Call our Hotline (toll free) and we'll place your bet for you. The Derby starts at 2.25pm and England starts at 3.00pm.
3. Your betbook must be filled out and ready to go at 2.25pm.
4. Alternatively, call into your local Ladbrokes, open today at 11.00am. Good luck!

1.45 VODAFONE HANDICAP
(218,400; 6f) (17 runners)
101 (2) 0-00 SHAMANT 21 (D.F.S.) R. Haines 4-9-10
102 (1) 0-00 HON EXPRESS 12 (D.F.S.) J. Bolding 4-9-10
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EURO 96

THE COMPLETE GUIDE

GROUP A

ENGLAND

After all the speculation about whether any of the "Celtic Pacific Four" would be involved in the England squad, news of one exclusion did seep through to the team's Blenheim Abbey headquarters yesterday: England officials have apparently banned The Sun from the team hotel lest the subject matter disturb the players so close to the big game. Tony Adams, who may replace David Platt as captain today, took the censorship further when he revealed he was trying to ensure his colleagues did not read any newspapers or watch television. He said they had been watching videos and "doing things to relax the brain" instead. Adams and Darren Anderton were the only players who were brought out to see the press in the giant white tent that caters to the international media. Gary Neville has recovered from his thigh strain and should start against Switzerland but Les Ferdinand still has a groin problem and is unlikely to be considered.

GROUP B

SPAIN

Prepares for a culture shock when Spain make their first Euro 96 outing tomorrow. Gone are the days of Latin lassitude; fanaticism is the watchword under coach Javier Clemente. His Basque work ethic has transformed the collection of disparate elements into a cohesive whole. Reassuringly, the Spanish build-up has been far from conventional. Only two friendlies this year, none in the last month and only one week together before the big kick-off suggests either supreme confidence or total disregard by the Spanish footballing authorities. It is the latter, but Clemente has devised bizarre routines to offset the effects of a demanding domestic competition. His most loco idea is to lock the players in a sauna and then transfer them into a swimming pool filled with ice. "We have had the worst of all the build-ups, but it has been the best as well," Clemente said. Their play may be less mysterious, but at least their utterances remain as impenetrable as ever.

GROUP C

GERMANY

This has been an embarrassing two days for the Germans. The last straw, the cancellation of yesterday's open training session at Macclesfield, had the "phone ringing off the wall" from disappointed fans. Bertie Vogts was unrepentant, insisting that the Macclesfield pitch was unsuitable. "I've been of every major championship since 1966, and every training pitch was far, far better than the one we were given." The Germans will attempt to repair the public relations damage by trying to find an alternative pitch next week. "We feel we have an obligation to keep on doing public sessions, we're not trying to hide," Niersbach said. There was one German success, albeit for their medical profession, yesterday. It was announced that Mario Basler, who flew home earlier in the week, had had a loose piece of bone in his foot removed yesterday, and he is expected back today and to be fit to play against Russia next week.

GROUP D

DENMARK

The Danes have an uncanny knack of putting their differences behind them. There have been all sorts of rows and boycotts by the players but, right now, they probably have the best team in the world. The reward, for the neutral, is the opportunity to watch the Laudrup brothers play together in a significant tournament for the first time. Michael's beef has been with the team's negative style of play but he has, temporarily at least, converted to the notion that Denmark do not have enough talent to play other than on the break. There are no injury worries and manager Richard Moller Nielsen is expected to field the same side that beat Ghana 1-0 in Copenhagen last weekend despite the assertion of Rangers' Brian Laudrup that "we didn't play particularly well... but it suits us to play against skilful players." So, it surely must be Denmark and Turkey to qualify from this group, then.

SWITZERLAND

British bureaucracy is often impenetrable but the spirit of Euro 96 helped to cut through the red tape when Credit Suisse, sponsors of Switzerland, wanted to hang a good luck banner on the side of the Swiss National Tourist Office in Leicester Square. Such advertising is strictly controlled in the West End but, after countless calls and faxes, Urs Eberhard, the bank's head honcho in the UK and Ireland, finally managed to bypass all the red tape and gain permission. "It took a long time but I suppose that is typical of you English," a bank spokesman said. It cost £4,000 to employ 12 men to scale the heights and unfurl the banner, but there is still a catch. It can remain there for only three days before it must flutter gently to earth. "Maybe if we reach the final we will try to put it up again," the spokesman, having slipped into pils-mighty mode, added.

BULGARIA

Tournament play, it seems, brings out the old Iron Curtain mentality in the eastern Europeans. The Bulgarians are holed up in an isolated hotel in Scarborough and security is very tight — even the team press office had difficulty gaining entry this week. They do like a good old conspiracy theory as well. Dimitar Penev, the Bulgarian coach, finally gave a press conference this week, only to descend immediately into dark mutterings about the Spanish. He accused them of trying to undermine his side by circulating the Bulgarians based in Spain. "It won't work. They are trying to kick up a storm but we will ignore it," he said. If it all smacks of paranoia, don't be fooled. Penev was just playing little games and the reality is that he arrived in England full of confidence, and with good reason. It would seem. "We are a better side now than we were when we reached the World Cup semi-final two years ago," he said.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Some idiosyncratic preparation has left the Czechs looking reasonably likely to perform well in the demanding Group C. They wooed Preston Grasshoppers rugby union club sufficiently effectively for the club's groundsmen to transform a muddy rugby field into a smooth soccer pitch for the Republic's training sessions. And the Czechs completely bowled over the village of Sander Bridge despite trouncing their UniBond league side 9-1 on Thursday evening. Every member of the squad, apart from Kouba, took part in the friendly at Irongate, Maier, the third-choice goalkeeper, even had a go in midfield. It seems that they have an embarrassment of riches with Berger, top scorer in the qualifying stages, not sure of a place in the starting line-up against Germany tomorrow. Srnec, the Newcastle United goalkeeper, is not too hopeful of selection — if Kouba recovers from his elbow injury he will still be first choice.

PORTUGAL

Portugal are taking no chances with "mad cow" disease. The Portuguese cattle industry is sending its own beef and the squad have brought their own chef, dairy products and, having heard of Yorkshire Water's reputation, their own water with them. Food apart, the Portuguese are happy enough in South Yorkshire. They were greeted on Wednesday by a civic reception in Sheffield, and trained at Sheffield Wednesday's training pitch the next morning. To make them feel really at home, the Companhia Paulo Ribeiro, Portugal's leading modern dance group, were at the Crucible last night. "All the people are very friendly, the facilities are very good, the training pitch is excellent," Vitor Baia, the captain, said after their first session. His view of Paulo Ribeiro was not given. David Platt, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, was equally complimentary in reverse, saying that he expected Portugal to win Group D.

HOLLAND

Sopwell House Hotel and Country Club, set in deepest, rural Herefordshire, near St Albans, had seen little like it before the Holland squad invaded its neatly manicured grounds this week. It was no surprise that many of the guests were seen peering in bemused fashion from the overlooking balcony, wondering what on earth was this bright orange gathering before them. They had no need to worry; the unexpected invaders were perfectly formed and perfectly behaved. Holland's coach, Guus Hiddink, may have a few injury worries, the fitness of the Ajax forward Patrick Kluivert in particular, leading up to his team's clash with Scotland at Villa Park on Monday, but the players gave their onlookers a thrill and also performed admirably for the assembled press scrum. Considering the promised sums on offer, reported to be in the region of £160,000 per player, if they win the championship, they had much to look good about. Mercy me, not even a hint of a broken TV.

ROMANIA

With Kevin Keegan in the ITV studio and most of his players basking in the sun, Newcastle United's Durham training base, Maiden Castle, is being borrowed by Romania during June. It was on this university-owned land that Anghel Iordănescu's squad trained in bright sunshine yesterday. They have been settling into Redworth Hall, just north of Darlington, and charming members of that upmarket hotel's health club by working out alongside them in the gym. A general lack of English is no barrier to the Romanians' attraction, and female fitness aficionados have been out buying the latest in figure-enhancing lycra leotards as they bid to catch the eye of Florin Radulescu et al. The Anghel of Bucharest will not like local paper talk about which of his charges might suit Peter Reid's Sunderland next season but surely no rumour can top that of a couple of seasons ago when Keegan was supposedly sighted in a Birtley fish and chip shop with George Hagi.

ITALY

Italy traveled the north-west looking for a hotel prepared to accept their own chef and closed accommodation to anyone but the Italian squad. To say they are one of the more private teams of Euro 96 would be the understatement of the tournament. Yesterday Arrigo Sacchi set a few players loose on the media, of which the Italian contingent create a highly claustrophobic atmosphere. Roberto Mussi performed best under the spotlight looking very like Robert Redford, in front of camera. Mussi was not really expected to be a first choice full back but was named for today's warm up game against Stoke City's under-18s. He is now just one step from playing at Anfield for which he has a "particular fascination" having supported Liverpool as a youngster. Zola, also named for the warm-up match, expressed a vague interest in one day joining the FA Carling Premiership. Vitali has probably started a fashion.

TURKEY

Was it pure coincidence that a promotional stunt, involving a large model of a turkey, was taking place outside the team hotel in Bolton, near Grantham, when the Turkish squad arrived for business on Tuesday? No matter, they are foraging souls and it has not affected their plans for a get-together and barbecue tonight. Though traditional Christmas fare is unlikely to be on the menu, Faik Terim and his squad will eat heartily and contemplate their debut in the European championship finals. "We have waited more than 70 years for this chance and it is important that we make an impression," he said. Tugay Keremoglu, the Galatasaray midfielder player, has a foot injury but is Terim's only worry ahead of the game against Croatia on Tuesday. "It is the first time we have played them since Yugoslavia broke up and they will be playing with their hearts," he said, "but we have not come here to think about Croatia."

SCOTLAND

Scotland are obliged to share their training complex for the European championship finals, but the company they keep is proving affable. The squad is using the leisure facilities of the NFU Mutual in Stratford. On Thursday, around 1,000 employees and children had the opportunity to collect photographs and autographs. The attention was a little less abundant yesterday, but, as he left the field, Ally McCoist was able to barter with secretaries who were leaning from a window in the office block. The congenial surroundings were offered by NFU Mutual's managing director, Andrew Young, a Scot whom underlings claim is a keen Rangers supporter. Eoin Jess, the Coventry City midfielder player, was withdrawn from the latter part of the training session because of a slight thigh strain, but it is expected to clear up in the next 24 hours and he should be available for Scotland's opening match against Holland on Monday.

FRANCE

Oh est Cantona? To the France manager, Aimé Jacquet, that question was becoming a little more pertinent as this week has progressed. Jacquet has received remarkably little criticism for his decision to ignore the obvious charms of the man many English supporters believe can walk the Channel that the French squad flew across yesterday. The shrugs were becoming increasingly Gallic though, after Zinedine Zidane, the impostor who impudently assumed King Eric's crown, was struck down with injury. The problem is with the thigh muscle and the bulletins from the team doctor, Jean-Marcel Forré, have been darker by the hour. Thankfully for Jacquet, Zidane successfully came through a test against Armenia and the French arrived yesterday buoyant as they checked into The George Hotel in Northumberland. A 2-0 victory on Wednesday extended their unbeaten sequence to 23 matches and improved already soaring confidence. Qui a besoin de Cantona?

RUSSIA

Glasnost may have had its moments, but it evidently has not infiltrated the Ministry of Sport and Tourism yet. Inside Wrightington Hall, the country club hotel headquarters of the Russia team, outside Wigan, is proving almost as impenetrable as the Kremlin in the old days. Guards patrol the corridors and visitors are discouraged. Yesterday the barriers came down briefly with an open training session at Wigan Athletic. "This will be the only chance to meet the players," their press officer warned. It had been scheduled for 5pm today, until it was pointed out that it clashed with the end of England's first game. The only question over the team is the replacements for the injured first-choice full backs. The loss of the outstanding defender Nikiforov for the first game increases the problem, and there have been suggestions that Kanchelskis could play wing back, but they are more likely to play him in his more orthodox role.

CROATIA

Drazen Ladic, the Croatia goalkeeper, has been undergoing plenty of coaching practice as Miroslav Blazevic's squad have turned in and chilled out in Ireland this week. Ladic, 33, is a keen angler and has been taking advantage of the piscatorial delights of Co Monaghan. At first, Ladic claimed to have caught a trout in a local lake. "He was trying to get his lunch but we reckon he bought it down the road," a Croatian insider said. Then, a day later, he turned on the style for a television crew that just happened to be passing by, hauling in a brace of pike of the milneuse variety. Much bigger fry now lie ahead for Ladic and company, with Croatia due to arrive in England today, to set up shop at their Group D headquarters at Oakham, near Rutland, Leicestershire. What price Turkey are not so much stuffed but reeled right in at Nottingham Forest's City Ground on Tuesday evening?

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

GROUP A
England Holland
Scotland Switzerland

Today	Mon June 10	Tue June 11	Wed June 12	Thu June 13	Fri June 14	Sat June 15	Sun June 16
England v Switzerland (Wembley, 3.0)							
Holland v Scotland (Villa Park, 4.30)							
Switzerland v Holland (Villa Park, 7.30)							
England v Scotland (Wembley, 3.0)							
Scotland v Switzerland (Villa Park, 7.30)							
England v Holland (Wembley, 7.30)							

GROUP B
Spain France
Romania Bulgaria

Tomorrow	Mon June 10	Tue June 11	Wed June 12	Thu June 13	Fri June 14	Sat June 15	Sun June 16
Spain v Bulgaria (Eland Road, 2.30)							
Romania v France (St James' Park, 7.30)							
Bulgaria v Romania (St James' Park, 4.30)							
France v Spain (Eland Road, 6.0)							
France v Bulgaria (St James' Park, 4.30)							
Romania v Spain (Eland Road, 4.30)							

GROUP C
Germany Czech Republic
Italy Russia

Tomorrow	Tue June 11	Wed June 12	Thu June 13	Fri June 14	Sat June 15	Sun June 16
Germany v Czech Republic (Old Trafford, 5.0)						
Italy v Russia (Anfield, 4.30)						
Czech Republic v Italy (Anfield, 7.30)						
Russia v Germany (Old Trafford, 3.0)						
Italy v Germany (Old Trafford, 7.30)						
Russia v Czech Republic (Anfield, 7.30)						

GROUP D
Denmark Portugal
Turkey Croatia

Tomorrow	Tue June 11	Wed June 12	Thu June 13	Fri June 14	Sat June 15	Sun June 16
Denmark v Portugal (Hillsborough, 7.30)						
Turkey v Croatia (City Ground, 7.30)						
Portugal v Turkey (City Ground, 4.30)						
Croatia v Denmark (Hillsborough, 6.0)						
Croatia v Portugal (City Ground, 4.30)						
Turkey v Denmark (Hillsborough, 4.30)						

GROUP A

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP B

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP C

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czech Rep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP D

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

QUARTER-FINALS
Sat June 22 Winners Group B v Runners-up Group A (Anfield, 6.30)
Sun June 23 Winners Group C v Runners-up Group D (Old Trafford, 3.0)

SEMI-FINALS
Wed June 26 Villa Park winners v Anfield winners (Old Trafford, 4.0)
Wed June 26 Wembley winners v Old Trafford winners (Wembley, 7.30)

FINAL
Sun June 30 Wembley, 7.0

PREVIOUS WINNERS
1960: Spain
1964: Spain
1968: West Germany
1972: West Germany
1976: West Germany
1980: West Germany
1984: France
1988: West Germany
1992: Denmark

RUNNERS-UP
1960: Yugoslavia
1964: USSR
1968: Yugoslavia
1972: USSR
1976: West Germany
1980: Belgium
1984: Spain
1988: USSR
1992: Germany

Words: Oliver Holt, Kevin McCarr, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Alyson Rudd, David Maddock, Louise Taylor

LATEST BETTING
4-1: Germany
5-1: Italy
11-2: Portugal
6-1: France
7-1: England
8-1: Spain
10-1: Portugal
12-1: Croatia

LATEST BETTING
15-1: Russia
25-1: Bulgaria
25-1: Romania
25-1: Denmark
50-1: Switzerland
66-1: Czech Republic
80-1: Scotland
100-1: Turkey

Still daft as a brush, but needed more than ever



Gascoigne in many ways he is still a young kid

When Paul Gascoigne played for me in the 1990 World Cup in Italy, he was the best young player in the tournament. Things have turned a bit sour for him since then. He had the ligament injury in the FA Cup Final, the broken kneecap and the broken leg, but now he is back to something close to his best and he has got a new challenge: for his own sake and for England's, he has to become the most responsible player in the European championship.

I heard all the fuss about his behaviour on the flight home from Hong Kong. Like everything else, whatever happened on the plane will have been exaggerated by the tabloids. If it was Paul, then he deserves to be reprimanded, but suggestions that he should be kept out of the squad were unworkable. It does matter that he is one of our better players, it does matter that he is influential. We need him.

I made him wait before I gave him his chance at international level a couple of months before Italia 90. I must have watched him about 20 times before I picked him and I did not play him until I thought he was

ready. When I first saw him, he was doing things like trying to nutmeg people outside his own box. If you do that at international level and lose the ball, you are going to be a goal down before you have time to blink. I used to talk to him about discipline and, when I thought I could trust him, I put him in against Czechoslovakia at Wembley and he had a marvellous game. I thought to myself while I was watching him that night that this was a great talent.

He was 23 then. He was young and coltish and a bit silly and I just thought that, with the passage of time, he would calm down a bit and have more sense, but now I don't think that is ever going to happen. He is always going to be someone who catches the public eye, for the right reasons or the wrong ones. He forgets who he is. In many ways, he is still a young kid.

Chris Waddle did a great job with him in that 1990 England squad. He talked Gordie to him and slowed him down, and Peter Beardsley did the same, but he still managed to do the kind of things that made me call him daft as a brush. That was not a

Bobby Robson looks at the potential impact of his star from 1990 in this first of a series of exclusive articles to appear in The Times during Euro 96



vicious remark: it was intended as a term of affection, but it was the way he was.

The afternoon before the quarter-final with Cameroon, for example, he played a game of tennis when we wanted him to be resting. He was first up and last to bed. He never missed anything. Wherever I was, he seemed to be there, too. I saw more of him than anyone else because of that and we got on very well.

I was always a bit concerned about him back then. He was dynamite, TNT. I put up with his off-the-pitch behaviour because he

was always making people laugh and raising spirits. My worry was that he would explode on the field and the prime example of that came with that booking against Germany which would have put him out of the World Cup final if we had got there. It was so unnecessary, too.

He is always going to have rushes of blood to the head during the course of a match. He never learns; that is the problem; but he needs to realise that this could well be his last tournament at this level and, if he has any sense at all, he will not let anything get in the way of him taking his chance. He will need to

show the kind of sheer application that he has never shown before, but he must do it.

He is still the key for England. He can give the pass that unlocks the door. He can see the pass that nobody else sees. All his injuries have pruned his development, but he has still got his dribble, he has still got his strength on the ball. If he can stay out of trouble, he, and players like him, will be a wonderful asset in a tournament where defenders should reign supreme.

I rate England's chances of doing well in Euro 96. It is hard to judge them properly because they have not had any truly competitive matches for the past 2½ years. Whatever you say to players, they know it is only a friendly and they do not really dig it out for you, but now that the tournament is here and points are at stake and they have to fight and scramble, I think their performance level will rise by 10 per cent, and that could give them an edge.

McManaman and Anderton are fine touch players and Shearer cannot possibly go on not scoring. It will not be all new to Fowler

anymore, either, if he gets a chance and, even though I thought Beardsley was a gem, Terry has chosen Barmby instead. If they get the chances, any of those lads will knock them in.

The quality of the other teams is so high that it is difficult to pick out a favourite, but I saw Germany beat Portugal 2-1 in Porto in March and they looked very accomplished. They had a bit of class and the teamwork was of a very high standard. They did not make many errors and they will be very difficult to beat.

Holland must be among the favourites, too. I know some of their players from my time with PSV Eindhoven and I like the Dutch way of playing. They keep possession, but they do not overpass. They will not give it away, but they are always looking to be progressive and penetrative with it. If he is fit, Patrick Kluivert, their centre forward, should be the best young player in the tournament.

That brings us back to Paul. If he keeps it sensible, he could put Kluivert and the rest of them in the shade.

Adams ready to lead England on day of reckoning

By OLIVER HOLT

TERRY VENABLES, the England coach, had posed with a symbol of the Three Lions for the ranks of jostling photographers and Paul Gascoigne had perfected a new funny walk for the benefit of his teammates when Tony Adams, for so long the epitome of English footballing determination, sat down at a table in front of a horde of journalists. "Have we got a big game coming up then?" he asked, in mock surprise.

A big game, indeed. A game against Switzerland at Wembley today that will mark the beginning of England's attempt to erase, as their official song says, "30 years of hurt" by winning the European championship and adding another trophy to the World Cup won by Bobby Moore, Bobby Charlton and the rest in 1966. For Adams, it seems, it may be bigger than most.

Although he refused to comment yesterday, sources close to Venable said that he had decided to play Gareth Southgate alongside Adams in a flat back four and persevere with Steve McManaman on the left side of midfield. That would mean no place for David Platt, the designated captain, leaving the armband to pass to his Arsenal team-mate.

Venable will not name his team until an hour before the kick-off today. He emphasised yesterday that he wants to see to gain any edge he can over

the opposition, and one theory was that the rumours about Platt were merely a smoke-screen to try to throw Switzerland off the scent.

If Adams, who made a rousing call to arms to his team-mates yesterday, is handed the role, though, there can be little doubting his



EURO 96

suitability, even though he has only just regained full fitness after a long spell out with injury.

"I do not take part in any tournament or play in any game that I do not think I can win," Adams said. "I think we have got the talent to do it. We need the rub of the green, but there is tremendous ability in this squad, which we have not been given enough credit for. It is about time for us to stand up and say 'We are a good side' and start delivering."

"I am very patriotic and I see some of the Irish and Dutch lads at Arsenal who are so proud to play for their

country and so proud of their players and I do not get the impression that we give ourselves the same kind of approval. In the dressing-room, whatever needs to be done, I do. I motivate the ones who need to be motivated, calm down the ones who need to be calmed down."

Adams said that he had been trying to pick out good omens to encourage the rest of the team. When Arsenal were going for the league championship in 1993, he had got up his colleagues by reminding them that the club had won the title in 1953 and 1971 and was due another in the 18-year cycle. Quite what success he could drag out of 1936 to prove that English success comes in 30-year bouts, he would not say.

Venable took a more stoical view of the weeks ahead, trying to calm the fervour that he must feel building throughout the country. "We can't think about winning the tournament," he said. "I know it is a cliché, but we have to take a game at a time. Beating Switzerland tomorrow is as much as we can hope for. It will be nice to win and to entertain in a fashion that everyone wants."

"It will be a great moment walking out at Wembley. It will be one of the gooseberry ones where you can feel the excitement. Am I nervous? No. Not yet."



The Czech Republic players, Sznicer, left, Bejbl, Berger and Novotny, get back to basics and move a goal before training in Preston yesterday

Craftsman clocks on for Wembley shift

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BEFORE a ball is kicked in Euro 96, we imagine players on the rack of fear, their livelihoods entirely dependent on performance, their thoughts wandering no further than a pack of playing cards from 4-4-2s and other systems. Not so: waiting to take on England is Sebastian Jeanneret, a player apart in that he has a full-time living outside the game; and waiting to oppose Scotland at Villa Park on Monday is Johan de Kock, a civil engineer who plays part-time.

Jeanneret, who is hoping to be called up for his second cap for Switzerland today as a replacement for the suspended Marc Hotiger — is a watch-

maker. He is 22, came out of full-time study just six months ago, and with a diploma in the fine technical art of clock mechanism, he runs his own business repairing and restoring some of the finest antique clocks in the home of the clock. His grandfather was a clock-maker.

Unsurprisingly, Jeanneret finds it extraordinary that he could play at Wembley this afternoon. Yet yesterday there was no detectable nervousness in him. Looking quite relaxed, he observed: "This is a sport; I like to be free to choose my life."

His main role in three seasons for Xamax Neuchâtel has been as a stopper, but if he plays on the right of midfield, his instincts will carry him forward every bit as much as we have

come to expect from Hotiger. Also in the team, Kubilay Turkulmaz, born Swiss of Turkish parents, was the player whose two goals for Galatasaray, of Turkey, effectively removed Manchester United from the European Champions' League three years ago. Kubilay subsequently gave up the almost obscene riches of the Istanbul club to return to Switzerland with Grasshopper. The reason? Again, life outside football. "I have two daughters who are reaching school age," he said. "It is important to put education first."

So Kubilay, the scorer of three goals in five qualifying matches, another man from the continent for whom the obsession with professional football, the gamble of seeing everything of life

through the training ground and the dressing room, has shown the deeper side of professionalism.

It will not be apparent when he seeks to further his name against Tony Adams and Co. Nor should Scotland presume that de Kock, because he has reached 31 years without impressing himself on our knowledge, will be a soft centre of Holland's defence. De Kock replaces the captain, Danny Blind, who is suspended, and he never expected to be judged as a like replacement. The 25 per cent of his working life that is put into football, however, may be more than it seems ... after all the "full-time" English and Scottish professionals usually start their working day at 10.30am and are gone shortly after noon.

McCoist keen to make his mark

By KEVIN MCCARRA

ALLY MCCOIST was asked yesterday to add his signature to one of the fair plaques that will be completed by each of the 16 nations in the European championship finals. McCoist, the Rangers forward, perhaps reading the text, paused for a moment and the hesitation was long enough for someone to yell at him: "Just put down your X."

At 33, McCoist is eager to make some sort of mark in the next few weeks. For all his prolific ways at club level, he is yet to score in the finals of a significant international tournament. Asked about his desire to correct the oversight, McCoist declared that the needs of the team were greater than those of the individual and that victory itself mattered more than the identity of the man who secured it.

McCoist, however, is too mischievous to tolerate even his own platitudes and he could not continue with the humdrum for long. "I'm sure you've heard all this rubbish before," he said suddenly. Gary McAllister, the Scotland captain, was also having difficulty with the notion that his team-mate can really have

become selfless. "Do you think he's going to cut the ball back?" he asked.

McCoist asked himself fortunate merely to have the opportunity to decide whether he will be altruistic or just his old, greedy self. On May 18, he missed the Tennessees Scottish Cup final after picking up a calf injury in the pre-match warm-up.

"That was as big a blow as I've had in my whole career," McCoist said, "and it left me with a nagging doubt about playing in the European championship."

"Fortunately, I had a little time and not playing in the first match of our American tour, against the United States, gave me three more days before I had to make my comeback in the Colombia game and I was able to last 70 minutes there. I know I was close to missing this tournament."

While McCoist is bound to feature at some stage in Scotland's three group matches, he may not be in the starting line-up against Holland at Villa Park on Monday. There is, however, a great need to end his country's tradition of sterility on these occasions.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, has, in various capacities, been part of the coaching staff at three tournaments — the World Cups of 1986 and 1990 as well as the 1992 European championship — and, on each occasion, Scotland have lost the opening match 1-0. "The first game," Brown said, "is critical. It would be an uphill struggle to qualify if we were beaten." He knows, too, that Holland are hardly the most suitable opponents for a country attempting to rid itself of such a jinx.

Klinsmann starts as spectator

By PETER BALL

GERMANY go into their first game, against the Czech Republic at Old Trafford tomorrow, without Jürgen Klinsmann, but with pressure from home and abroad that is more than equal to that on England.

"Our aim is to qualify from the group, and then see how we do," Bertie Vogts, their coach, said after training at the team's hotel yesterday morning, but Germany expects more from the favourites than that.

In theory, Germany have the best possible start against the Czechs, who are widely regarded as the outsiders in group C, but the first match in a four-team group is often a cagey one, with both teams afraid of losing, and the Czechs are likely to provide stubborn, well-organised, if not particularly inspired opposition, their lack of an outstanding striker telling against them.

Klinsmann is not the only German missing the march through suspension. "So is Steffen Freund, and he is an important part of our team, too," Vogts said. Since his difficulties in the World Cup, Vogts has been eager to insist on the collective rather than individual. "I know we can be very, very strong as long as the star is the team," he said yesterday. "My star is not Klinsmann, or Hässler, or Basler or Bobic; my star is the team."

The loss of Basler and Freund from midfield, the area of greatest strength for the Czechs, is potentially more damaging than Klinsmann's absence, but, with Möller and Hässler, Germany are not short of creative options.

Denmark rely on Laudrup

By ALYSON RUDD

DENMARK begin the defence of their title at Hillsborough tomorrow against a side well equipped to show whether or not Richard Moeller Nielsen, the Denmark coach, has adopted the correct tactical approach.

Portugal have faith in young talent and play in an attacking, free-flowing style. Denmark, who have in Schmeichel the best goalkeeper in the competition, will aim to combine stern defending with swift counter-attacks, built around the talents of the Laudrup brothers.

Michael Laudrup, the Real Madrid midfielder player, who missed the 1992 tournament because he would have preferred another coach, is not looking beyond the quarter-final.

"We are enjoying just being here," he said. "We were in a very strong [qualifying] group, but we made it. Now we are in a group where I think anything can happen. Croatia, Turkey and Portugal are three strong, technically very good teams, but they still have to show what they can do in the final rounds."

Middlesbrough supporters will be particularly interested in the form of Mikkel Beck, of Denmark, who wants to come to England and play under Bryan Robson, if he can settle a contract dispute with Borussia Köln, his German second-division club.

Portugal, whose best effort in the championship was in 1984, when they reached the semi-finals, will be hoping that Rui Costa and Paulo Sousa can be more consistently effective than they were for Fiorentina and Juventus during the Italian season.

Spotlight beckons Spaniards

By DAVID MADDOCK

WITH interest in the European championship so far concentrated on England's unconventional preparations and the intimidating presence of Germany and Italy, group B, stuck out as it is in Newcastle and Leeds, has received scant attention.

All that will change come tomorrow, when Spain meet Bulgaria in the opening fixture. The insular British may have to concede that the group, completed by France and Romania, is possibly the toughest of all. Given its quiet start, it could be called the group of whispering death.

France are rightly regarded among the favourites — their unbeaten sequence stretches to 23 matches — but Spain are surely not far behind them. They have silently become a world force, thanks to Javier Clemente, their coach. The man from the Basque region of Spain has instilled a discipline and work ethic in his national team and his recent record — unbeaten in qualifying for Euro 96, conceding just four goals — is testimony to his powers.

A worry for Spain is their lack of a consistent goalscorer to lead the line, but Clemente's bigger worry is the ludicrously short amount of time he has had to prepare — just one week, because of the never-ending soap opera of the league season.

Bulgaria have been together for the past two months and present a formidable challenge. Dimitar Penev, their coach, believes that the time has come for his side. "We are a better team than two seasons ago, when we could have won the World Cup," he said.

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10/1 ENGLAND 3-0 20/1 SWITZ'D 2-1

Other scores on request.

FIRST GOALSCORER

9/2 SHEARER (E) 16/1 SFORZA (S)
8/1 SHERINGHAM (E) 20/1 WICKY (S)
10/1 CHAPUISAT (S) 25/1 VOGEL (S)
10/1 GASCOIGNE (E) 28/1 ADAMS (E)

Other players on request.

FIRST HALF GOALS

Sat. 8/13 ENGLAND 2/1 SWITZ'D 5/1
Sun. 8/15 SPAIN 15/8 BULGARIA 13/5
Sun. 8/15 GERMANY 9/4 CZECH REP. 5/1
Sun. 8/15 PORTUGAL 15/8 DENMARK 2/1
Mon. 8/19 HOLLAND 5/2 SCOTLAND 6/1
Mon. 8/19 FRANCE 2/1 ROMANIA 3/1
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TENNIS 45

SAMPRAS MEETS
HIS MATCH IN
PARIS SEMI-FINAL

Venables expected to leave out Platt for opening match against Switzerland

Football needs safe European home

IT IS a time to accentuate the positive. At three o'clock this afternoon the most important sporting event England has staged for 30 years is launched when the national team plays its first serious game for 30 months, against Switzerland. The country must bond together to ensure Euro 96 runs smoothly.

Success need not be tied to the remote prospect of England repeating their triumph in the 1966 World Cup. They may not be as good as that. Germany and Italy, and even Croatia, France and Spain, may be so much better. And in reality, Euro 96 represents a greater challenge to the country, to the civil order and the welcoming mood of the people, than it depends on 22 players.

"Coming home" and "We are in this together" are the slogans. For three weeks, the motherland of the world's most popular game will undergo something like a rebirth. There is pain, expectancy, fear. The players, appearing from behind the white security screens of their training ground and, one trusts, thoroughly dried out after their tour of the Far East, have a responsibility. Paul Gascoigne, if only he can use his ability, can indulge all his unusual traits and be a hero. Alan Shearer, so rapacious a goalscorer in the league, must break his 1,065-minute drought for the national team and show those who believe the tighter marking of continental teams, the intelligence of sweepers, blunts his head-on, aggressive approach.

"Don't tell anybody how good you are," Arnold Palmer's father used to tell the young golfer. "Show 'em!"

Show us all, indeed. One can only guess about the make-up of the teams at Wembley this afternoon. Terry Venables exercises his right to play the managerial game of "you first", and Arthur Jorge reciprocates in kind. The two of them will hand in their team-sheets together, each hoping to have outfoxed the other.

The Wembley turf, once the pageant of a cast of 1,000,

ROB HUGHES



Football
Correspondent

including medieval knights in armour, has cleared, will probably prove as inert as the FA Cup finalists. Manchester United and Liverpool, said it was last month. You cannot water a pitch when a pageant is so important, and players already nervous and cautious in not wanting to lose the inaugural match will suffer on it. That is the excuse over and done with; now for some optimism.

Venables has called 54 players to training in his two years in charge; 47 of them made it into an England shirt, 27 for the first time. At the end, he relies on a squad containing seven players with Tottenham Hotspur connections. This smacks of a coach restlessly trying to find performers to fit the system he believes will carry the old country towards the new, continental approach. That he should go back to his roots, to a Tottenham team that won so little, is unnerving; but block selection is the vogue. The Dutch, for example, have 14 of their 22 with Ajax connections.

Through the comparative veil of silence, Venables has spoken about his favourite son. "He was sensational when he was at Tottenham, and he might now be as good again," the coach said. "In fact, because he's learning to release the ball quicker, to give himself time to go on his runs, he might be better." The subject, inevitably, is Gas-



Adams, who is likely to captain England against Switzerland at Wembley today, makes his point in lion-hearted fashion yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

coigne. As a rider, Venables adds that it is not his duty to control the enthusiasm or the nature of England's most gifted creator... the inference is that players are born, not made.

David Platt, the England captain, might be the obverse to that. Unquestionably a man whose achievements have been constructed through good habits and application, he scores from midfield even when his part in build-ups might be questioned. Precious goals, when England are ca-

pable of precious few. If the grapevine is right, Platt is out of the starting line-up. One suspects that Venables thinks Switzerland will attack with three players, Marco Grassi, Stephane Chapuisat and Kubilay Turkulmaz, and therefore, the "new England" of only three in defence, must be shelved for an afternoon.

The Swiss, damaged by the broken toe Christophe Ohrel, the midfielder player, suffered on Monday, and weakened by suspensions to the right back, Marc Hottiger, and the teen-

age midfielder, Raphael Wicky, are considering at least one part-time professional with only one taste of interna-

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1966 recalled Magazine

tional football, Sebastian Jeanneret, but that represents only one of the "host" advantages England enjoy.

Not having had to qualify, England have no suspended

players, unlike Switzerland, Holland, who start the tournament without their captain, Danny Blind, and Germany, who begin without Jürgen Klinsmann.

Playing on home territory and denying, because of a "misunderstanding", Switzerland the right to train on the Wembley field, are two more. But the principal perk of the host is to start the tournament; should England also finish it, they will have 23 days in which to play six matches. Germany have 22, Italy, Rus-

sia and Croatia only 20. The symbol of Euro 96 could be Patrick Kluivert, of Holland and Ajax, the rising star of the pop culture that football is now becoming. He will receive a bonus of £170,000 if Holland win the tournament. The £670 million that BSKyB has agreed to pay for four more years of FA Carling Premiership football means that England's wealthy clubs could pay the asking price for Kluivert, or whoever takes the eye in the next three weeks.

What cannot be bought is

peace. "Nothing has shaken my belief that Euro 96 will be a festival not only of football but also of the English way of life." Thus said Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, on the morning after the riot in Dublin 15 months ago. The game's future here depends on him being proved right.

ENGLAND (probable, 4-4-2): D. Bessman (Arsenal) — G. Neville (Manchester United), A. Adams (Arsenal, captain), S. S. (Aston Villa), S. Pearce (Nottingham Forest) — D. Anderson (Tottenham Hotspur), P. Line (Internazionale), P. Gascoigne (Rangers), S. MacKenzie (Liverpool) — E. Shearer (Tottenham Hotspur), A. Shearer (Blackburn Rovers).
Referee: V. Diaz (Spain).

Cecil holds powerful Derby hand

HENRY CECIL won the Oaks with Lady Carla yesterday and spoke confidently of completing a rare Epsom classic double by landing the Vodafone Derby this afternoon (Richard Evans writes).

Cecil, the ten times champion trainer, is double-handed for the world's most famous flat race and said: "We are very pleased with Dushyantor and Storm Trooper and are going to have a really good day. They have come through everything right and come to a peak like Lady Carla. It is a question now of whether they are good enough."

Cecil was the last trainer to complete the Oaks-Derby double, with Oh So Sharp and Slip Anchor in 1985. Dushyantor will be ridden by Pat Eddery and is 4-1 favourite while Storm Trooper, the mount of Mick Kinane, has been well backed during the past 24 hours to 6-1. While Cecil attempts to send out his fourth Derby winner, Alex Greaves will become the first woman to ride in the 216 years of the Derby. Greaves, 28, rides Portuguese Lil, the 500-1 outsider.

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Alex Greaves, page 42
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Staunch Hussain keeps England in control

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EDGBASTON (second day of five): India, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 94 runs behind England

ENGLAND have spent as long in the search for an effective No 3 as Nasser Hussain has spent seeking the fulfilment of a Test career. The two ambitions happily coincided yesterday, and the benefits, for both parties, of Hussain's maiden century may be more than short-term.

The immediate prognosis is that England ought to win the first Cornhill Test, although there were times yesterday when their control was dan-



Hussain: century on recall

gerously eroded. Beyond that, England can at last link in the name of a man who has frustrated nobody more than himself by his protracted battle to conquer temperament with talent.

It is six years since Hussain made his precocious entrance to Test cricket, three years since the last of his seven games. The second coming of which he sometimes despaired has now been achieved in style and, what is more, in the position where a steady stream of candidates have tried and failed to hold down.

The last century made by an England No 3 came from Mike Gatting, 14 Tests ago. Eight different batsmen have been asked to bat there within

those games. Nobody else will have the chance for a while.

Hussain played magnificently for more than five hours, as he needed to do. India, stung by the carelessness of their batting, responded so tigerishly with the ball that, for long periods, the game hung in the balance. At one stage, England had plunged to 215 for eight, only one run ahead.

The most untrustworthy pitches can often produce the most gripping cricket and this was a case in point. Warwickshire are sensitive on the issue, but the fact remains that this has been a poor surface. That the outcome has been two intriguing days, however, is unarguable.

England's overnight position was soon exposed as illusory. On a humid morning, shortened by a 20-minute shower, they lost three wickets and might easily have lost five or six. Javagal Srinath bowled with skill, venom and no luck whatsoever.

Prasad and Mhambre, his underrated partners in seam, assisted ably and England lived on their nerve-ends.

Knight was out to the second ball of the day, which kept low. Two of the next three flew past Hussain's nose. He was disconcerted neither by this nor by the alarms that he was to experience up to lunch, by when he had batted two hours for 19. He was proclaiming his maturity, advertising his pa-

tience and focus. The exotic shots — the late cuts, cover drives and leg glances — would come later.

Atherton, having twice edged Prasad just short of the slip cordon, eventually drove at Mhambre and was caught, jugglingly, at second slip. Thorpe came out blazing, survived a couple of top-edged pulls and was then bowled, off bat and pad, by Srinath.

Hick was watched by his parents, over from Zimbabwe, where they have compiled 23 scrapbooks of his career. This will not be an innings that they will wish to highlight, for its watchful beginnings were squandered by a pull to long leg, where two men had been set for such a stroke.

Now, however, came England's jauntiest batting. Ronnie Irani has taken to international cricket with engaging gusto and he simply did what comes naturally, hitting the ball cleanly from his imposing height. Of the 46 added in ten overs with Hussain, Irani made 34 from 34 balls before falling to a lifter from Srinath, kicking the ground in self-disgust and offering a disarming grin of apology to umpire Hair.

This was the first of four wickets to tumble for 20 runs. The other three fell in eight balls from Prasad, who yanked Russell and found Lewis and Cork flitting outside off stump. Hussain was still in the sixties, but, as the bowlers tired, the softer ball behaved more placidly and, with the tail playing sensibly, he virtually doubled his score.

When Patel was leg-before to Kumble, an out-of-sorts bowler, Hussain had reached 93, but Mullally, whose career average is seven, accompanied him in a frisky stand of 49. India, so close to turning this game on its head, looked deflated and it was as well for them that the weather closed in with 15 overs unbowed.

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Photograph, page 44
Double century, page 44

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Zhirinovsky's wild words cast spell over the workers

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN OREKHOVO-ZUYEVO

DRESSED in a canary-yellow blazer and shielded from the summer sun by an incongruous EU umbrella, Vladimir Zhirinovsky strutted up to the microphone before launching into his familiar tirade.

The West was colonising the great Russian nation. A corrupt and incompetent Government needed to be ousted from power. Russia cried out for a firm hand to restore order and rebuild its greatness. The time for Zhirinovsky had come.

In a 45-minute outburst the ultra-nationalist firebrand managed to keep the attention of a crowd of 1,000 in this industrial town east of Moscow, by shocking and amusing his audience in a performance that Mussolini would have envied.

"I will be voting for him," said Andrei, 36, a factory worker, who added that Russia needed a new leader to rebuild the country without taking it back on the road to communism. "I like the way



he speaks and I believe in what he says."

Aside from a brief campaign pledge to house, employ and protect Russia, Mr Zhirinovsky, 50, spent most of his address in a character assassination of his rivals. President Yeltsin led a weak, lazy and corrupt administration which had turned Russia into a colony of America. The only distinction of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, was his time as a cook in the army. Grigori Yavlinsky, the liberal candidate, was a CIA agent.

"There is only one week left to choose," said the ultra-nationalist, jabbing his finger at the crowd. "Don't go to your dachas. Think about the country's future and what you can do to save it. Think about your children."

His anti-Establishment, anti-Western and anti-Semitic outbursts are well received by the country's sizable population of have-nots, many of whom are ready to overlook his Jewish parentage and links to the Kremlin.

"Zhirinovsky knows he cannot win the election, but he has run a good campaign and will probably emerge with a healthy showing," said Sergei Markov, a political analyst at the Carnegie Centre in Moscow. "He could use that support to bargain with."

□ Bomb blast: Valeri Shantsev, candidate for Deputy Mayor of Moscow, was wounded by a bomb that exploded outside his apartment block.



Karl Hass, 84, a former SS major, is taken to a military hospital in Rome after jumping from the first floor of his hotel yesterday when he was due to testify in a war crimes trial

Rome atrocity trial's SS witness injured in hotel escape bid

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE war crimes trial of the former SS captain, Erich Priebke, took a dramatic turn yesterday when a fellow SS member who was about to give vital evidence for the prosecution tried to escape from his guarded hotel by jumping 15th from the first floor, breaking his pelvis and damaging vertebrae.

There was speculation that members of a shadowy network of former SS officers had threatened Karl Hass, 84, who agreed only reluctantly to appear in court. "I fear there has been some external interference," said Antonio Intelsano, the military prosecutor, who persuaded Herr Hass, a former SS major, to come to Rome from Switzerland to give evidence and guaranteed his safety.

Signor Intelsano said Herr Hass had told police in the military hospital where he is now under redoubled guard that he had become "afraid to testify". The prosecutor, who met Herr Hass on Thursday night, said he had "reason to believe" that Herr

Hass had later received several mysterious telephone calls, changed his mind about testifying and tried to escape. But a police spokesman insisted Herr Hass had had only one phone conversation, with his daughter in Switzerland.

Herr Priebke, 82, was extradited from Argentina last year and went on trial last month accused of taking part in the massacre of 335 Italian men and boys at the Ardeatine Caves, on the edge of Rome, in March 1944. Former partisans have testified that they were tortured by Herr Priebke at the Gestapo HQ in Rome.

Herr Hass, who worked for the SS intelligence service and claims he helped Western secret services after the war, would have introduced a new element into the trial by implicating Herr Priebke in the June 1944 murder of Bruno Buozzi, a trade union leader and MP, who was taken out of Gestapo headquarters and driven north just as American troops were advancing on Rome.

Gestapo officer demands return of art hoard

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A FORMER Gestapo and SS officer has come out of the shadows to fight for the return of his art collection from eastern German galleries.

When the Allies began bombing Chemnitz, where Jochen Thuenmler ran the police administration, he ordered his collection to be moved to a depot in the Erzgebirge mountain range. The crates, marked with his name, were placed alongside the property of state museums. After the war, his collection was absorbed into Chemnitz city museums.

Herr Thuenmler claims it included an 8th-century silver goblet, a Renaissance baptismal font, and paintings. But Peter Fittig, the culture director of Chemnitz City Council, said: "We will give nothing to a criminal."

Under postwar Soviet military law, all war criminals had to forfeit their property. But Herr Thuenmler has never been convicted, and all charges were dropped in 1970.

Chemnitz City Council maintains that the Soviet decree applied to police chiefs even if war crimes were unproven. But his case, now in court, has highlighted another controversy: that of Holocaust victims seeking the return of art treasures they claim are in eastern German museums.

Herr Thuenmler says his collection is composed of heirlooms but concedes that some works were brought from Dresden, where he was police chief in 1938. Many Jews were forced to sell off their treasures cheaply. Historian Peter Heuss says a "large portion" of his collection was almost certainly Jewish property.

Prague Left puts brake on market reforms

BY ROGER BOYES

THE Government of Vaclav Klaus, the most Euro-sceptic leader in Central Europe, may yet survive its battering at the polls but will have to surrender some of its Thatcherite zeal in privatising the economy.

That was the outlook last night after a deal was struck among the three centre-right parties and the opposition Social Democrats, which recorded surprisingly high gains in last weekend's elections.

Milos Zeman, the Social Democrat leader, said that he had accepted a deal whereby his party takes the leadership of parliament in return for support of Mr Klaus's minority Government. Mr Klaus's Civic Democracy Party and his two junior coalition partners command 99 seats in the 200-member parliament.

The conditions for backing Mr Klaus are tough. "If the programme of the Government has, as one of its items, further privatisation of transport and energy networks we will not support it," Mr Zeman said.

President Havel, who said that the new Parliament would meet on June 17, seems confident that the new arrangement will survive the full four-year term.

But Mr Zeman hinted that new elections could come as early as 1998. It is therefore by no means clear that Mr Klaus will lead his country into negotiations for membership of the European Union.

There is no doubt that the Czech Republic has lurched to the left. Mr Zeman wants, in addition to slower privatisation, important concessions on pensions, healthcare and education.

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Patten acts over 'lost' refugee children

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, has ordered an inquiry into the 18-day separation of a three-year-old Vietnamese child from her parents after last month's breakout at a detention camp.

The inquiry will also look into how a five-year-old Vietnamese girl was jailed for 12 days in a prison. Their cases have been officially described as "unforgivable".

The girls, born in the camps, were among children separated from their parents during the breakout on May 10 from the High Island Camp. There are 17,000 boat people remaining in Hong Kong camps, most of whom refuse to return to Vietnam.

The three-year-old, Luu Thi Mai, had wandered to another part of the camp during the breakout. She was sent to another camp but was not returned to her parents until May 29.

Both sets of parents insist they reported their children missing from May 11. The five-year-old girl, named Hong Kong, was detained in the camp's "monkey house" for troublemakers. Her mother said the Correctional Services Department refused to accept her repeated attempts to report her missing daughter. She says the authorities told her on May 16 that Hong Kong was in Victoria prison. But she was not returned to her parents until May 22.

Brother repelled by grim legacy of Pol Pot's terror

BY TOM WALKER



Loth Suong: refuses to talk of Year Zero

THE old man sits cross-legged on the balcony, occasionally dabbing the sweat from his brow. In the sticky heat of the rainy season, the last memory Loth Suong needs is of his younger brother, Saloth Sar — better known to the world as Pol Pot.

If he is dead, his family will not mourn his passing. Loth Suong, 85 and debilitated by a stroke, refuses to talk of Pol Pot. Like many older middle-class Cambodians, he finds Kampuchea Year Zero, when many friends died or disappeared in conditions of pathetic subjugation to children with guns, difficult to erase.

That this genocidal horror was caused by a young brother whom he once looked after only deepens the revulsion. Mr Suong's son-in-law, a Royal Ballet dancer, said: "All questions about him we do not answer. We do not want to."

Mr Suong, whose twilight years are spent in a traditional stilt house near Phnom Penh's Pochentong airport, is the only surviving relative of Pol Pot in the capital. Of nine siblings, four are living in rural Kompong Thom province to the north. None of the family has been in touch with the man known by his Khmer Rouge stalwarts as "Brother Number One" for more than 20 years.

Mr Suong worked as Chef

du Protocol at the palace until his young brother's guerrillas "liberated" the capital in 1975. The irony of Pol Pot's life is that he was brought up in middle-class circumstances by a family that for generations had served the royal household. In the 1940s, Mr Suong and his wife, Chea Samy, looked after the young Saloth Sar as he studied at some of the city's best French schools. "The contemptible Pot was a lovely child," Mr Suong once told the Australian political analyst David Chandler.

Yesterday the Cambodian Government gave no official confirmation of his death, although King Norodom Sihanouk, in a letter from Peking, said that "one of the most

terrible tragedies in our history" was nearly over. Khmer Rouge radio has still said nothing of a funeral for Pol Pot described by the guerrilla movement's fighters near the Thai border on Thursday.

Security analysts in Phnom Penh doubted that Pol Pot's death would signal the end of the Khmer Rouge, whose numbers have dwindled to about 6,000 from 50,000 seven years ago. It could, however, presage the movement's splintering into different groups. While Pol Pot's right-hand man, Khieu Samphan, is based in the heavily fortified Phnom Malai base on the Thai border, the rebels' notorious one-legged military commander, Ta Mok, operates further east and deeper into Cambodian territory from a jungle retreat called Anlong Ven. It is here that the kidnapped British mine expert, Christopher Howes, is reportedly being held.

Sok Chenda, Cambodia's Junior Tourism Minister, whose family was wiped out by Pol Pot, said yesterday there was no cause for celebration. "I was born Cambodian, and the horrors of our past cannot be undone. All I want to do is turn the page. My parents and brothers are gone — I am alone."

Leading article, page 21



Goddess Victoria, a Berlin landmark, is provided with a gas mask by a Greenpeace activist yesterday during a protest against summer smog

Suu Kyi league banned by junta

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
IN RANGOON

BURMA'S military government has issued an order authorising the Home Ministry to ban Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy and imprison its members, state-run Rangoon radio reported yesterday.

The order, signed by Senior General Than Shwe, gives the ministry power to ban any organisation holding unlawful gatherings or obstructing the development of a constitution through the Government's National Convention, the report said. The junta's ban is effective immediately.

Members of a proscribed group could be given jail sentences of between five and 20 years and fines if found guilty of encouraging or instigating activities that "adversely affect the national interest", the broadcast said.

Thousands of supporters have gathered outside Daw Suu Kyi's residence every weekend since she was freed from six years of house arrest last July, despite a prohibition on political gatherings of more than five people.

The democracy league was told on Thursday that the party would be banned if it went ahead with a resolution adopted at a party congress last week to draft an alternative constitution and continued to hold public meetings. The league's officials said they would hold meetings this weekend despite the threats.

Bankruptcy brings black days to sunshine islands

FROM JOHN CAMPBELL IN WELLINGTON

IT IS a South Pacific paradox. The Cook Islands, 15 paradisiacal dots in a warm ocean three hours northeast of New Zealand, are bankrupt. The Cooks, as they are called in the region, have everything going for them. Except that is, a Government that can live within its means.

A former colony of New Zealand, the Cook Islands have a population of 20,000 and a public debt of US\$120 million (£80 million).

In the Cook Islands such figures have been regarded as trivial distractions. But this week the creditors cried "enough". After a meeting in Fiji on Monday, the Cook Islands' Government has agreed to a debt repayment programme that will see more than half the 3,000 civil servants lose their jobs.

The creditors' meeting followed the Cook Islands defaulting on a debt to the tiny

South Pacific nation of Nauru. The Cooks also owe money to New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Italy, America and the Asian Development Bank.

A leading article on Wednesday in New Zealand's highest-circulation newspaper accused the islands of "a shameful degree of political corruption, gross economic mismanagement, woefully inept administration and shameful political patronage". Such pique may be explained by the fact that New Zealand is a substantial for-

eign aid donor to the Cooks. It appears much of that money has been used to prop up a magnificent welfare system and provide almost one in three of the population with jobs in 52 government departments. New Zealand might have ignored all that except that the Cooks explored being a tax haven as one way to draw overseas investors.

The solution to the Cooks' problem, supported by the Asian Development Bank, is to slash government spending and embark on a big privatisation programme. The job losses resulting from both options will take a serious social toll, but the Government was struggling to pay its workers anyway. Paradoxically, New Zealand, having balked at subsidising the wages of a bloated Cook Islands civil service, may find itself paying for those same people to be made redundant.

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OPINION

Is it time to rein in the drug culture depicted in such films as *Trainspotting*?

You may recall Frank Zappa's definition of rock journalism: "People who can't write interviewing people who can't talk for people who can't read". In which case you will be saddened to discover that this article is largely a discussion of the *New Musical Express*. But fear not. My subject is not the prose style of its exuberant scribbles. Nor is it rock music as such. It is an altogether darker matter: drug abuse within the music industry.

I do not say that every pop star is hooked on heroin. Doubtless the vast majority are purer than the driven slob, and exist on stimulants no stronger than PG Tips and Kenda Mint Cake. But that is not the image you receive from the pop-music press. Take the venerable *NME*. The magazine is not some underground rag: it has a long history, a mainstream publisher (IPC), and a big readership among under-25s. But what would shock any newcomer to its pages is how casual and commonplace are its allusions to drugs.

Let's flick through this week's issue. The cover headline sets the tone: "Dave Gahan Drugs Arrest" — page 3. This story tells in great detail how the singer "overdosed on a cocktail of heroin and cocaine injected intravenously", passed out, and was arrested.

Page 13 introduces us to a teenage chanteuse apparently called Nut, who "after two years of cannabis and clubs... decided to become an actress". On the next page is a profile of "America's coolest (and richest) revolutionaries" — a band called Rancid. "I drank the whole time: I did drugs," says its vocalist, Tim Armstrong.

There is some respite on page 16, when Tim Booth (of a band called James) reveals a comparatively harmless pastime: "I had this Tibetan shaman who covered me in yak's butter and set fire to me." But the respite is only temporary.

THEATRE

At Chichester, Peter Ustinov seems uneasy in the role of a great composer in *Beethoven's Tenth*

THE TIMES ARTS

BASE NOTE

The controversial photographs of the late Robert Mapplethorpe are lined up for London

BASE NOTE

"Love, booze, race, religion and politics" are promised in a show of Randy Newman songs

Mugs and drugs and rock'n'roll



RICHARD MORRISON

You must be kidding. The books include the history of a well-known group whose lead singer is depicted "taking loads of Ecstasy". And, of course, there is a generous appraisal of Irvine Welsh's latest book: *Ecstasy — Three Tales of Chemical Romance*.

And finally, on page 34, a former member of the Stone Roses is asked what he has been doing lately. "I've done a bit of mountain biking, smoked copious amounts of dope — just taking it easy, really," he replies.

point out that many of their drug stories are cautionary tales of disaster followed by reform. That is true, too — although what emerges is the impression that "doing drugs" is an essential, rite-of-passage thing for any cool teenager. And with *Ecstasy* apparently cheaper than ever before, there is plenty of opportunity.

Finally, they will argue that musicians were taking drugs long before *NME*'s present writers were born, and that the only difference now is that today's stoned stars are much more overt about it. It is this very frankness, however, that is so depressing. Continual references to drugs in music magazines and cult films such as *Trainspotting* and *Pulp Fiction* may be reflections of society. But teenagers shape their lives according to what they see and read. The injunction that we

are supposed to give to children — "just say no" — implies that they already know drugs are bad, and that it is just a matter of resisting peer pressure. But the problem now is that a huge area of popular culture — dance clubs, music, novels, films, magazines — is founded on the premise that drugs are not bad at all, but a quick and pleasurable form of escapism.

I am no fan of the sporting authorities, whose standards of pusillanimity and greed are often appalling. But at least when a doped-up sportsman is caught out, he is branded a cheat, ostracised and ruined — not admired as some sort of rebel. If the music industry could develop a similar attitude to its drug addicts, the pro-drugs climate of popular culture would be transformed. Talented pop stars would not "burn out" so quickly. The shadowy Svengalis who pull their strings would feel better about themselves. The music might even sound better. But somebody must be brave enough to make the first move.

Schoenberg in an echo chamber

PROFESSOR of Music at Manchester University and one of the most commissioned of British composers, John Casken scarcely needs a conducting job as well. But, as Composer in Association with the Northern Sinfonia, he has been doing more, and more conducting. "Next season" — while working on a second opera, among other things — he will be involved in the development of the Sinfonia's newly formed contemporary music ensemble. And he is interested in conducting more than his own music.

Casken's most recent concert with the Northern Sinfonia, in the Lyons Concert Hall at York University, was dedicated, it seemed, to demonstrating the lasting vitality of Schoenberg's early Chamber Symphony, Op. 9. Certainly there was no lack of vitality in his interpretation of that uniquely inspired score, which — above all for its energy — generated by the compression of symphonic material and symphonic structural features into a one-movement form on a chamber scale — will probably prove more influential in the long term than, for all their technical innovations, the later serial works.

John Adams's Chamber Symphony has just that kind of energy — it too is driven by compressed prodigy. The first movement, *Mongrel Airs*, is particularly successful in its hectic accretions of disparate material, from American car-

Northern Sinfonia/
Casken
York

toon tunes to a violin cadenza of grotesquely exaggerated virtuosity. It is a pity that, after the central *Aria* with *Walking Bass*, the final *Road-runner* cannot reach the degree of exhilaration aimed at from the beginning of the work.

Adams's Chamber Symphony adds a few instruments, including percussion and synthesizer, to the Schoenberg Chamber Symphony ensemble. Karen Markham's *The Wheel has Turned* takes a few away but the Schoenberg sound survives in the occasional vestigial echo. The work is based, according to the composer, on the thoughts of the Sufi mystic Bawa Muhaiyaddeen. To the ear, it is a perfectly comprehensible, attractively tuneful, resourcefully written and soundly structured score. The Northern Sinfonia's performance clearly did not solve all the problems of ensemble but, after their heroic and remarkably well-aimed exertions in the Adams Chamber Symphony, nobody could reproach them for that.

GERALD LARNER

Master déclassé

THEATRE

Beethoven's Tenth
Chichester

Peter Ustinov has always been good at playing pouchy eccentrics with mid-European accents, and since few men have been more eccentric, mid-European or pouchy than Beethoven, Ustinov could not be better cast than he is at Chichester. The question, however, is whether the play he wrote for himself in 1983 is worth reviving at all. On the evidence of Joe Harman's ponderous production, I fear the answer is no. When decent actors get stilted, and even the author does not seem 100 per cent sure of his lines, something must be wrong.

The idea is that Beethoven materialises and regains his hearing in the house of Stephen Faulkner, a contemporary critic writing an arid, tendentious tome about him. This allows Ustinov to trundle lugubriously about the stage, his rancid clothes suggesting he has been booted out of a hotel in a downwardly mobile section of the Elysian Fields. This sort of thing comes to him as easily as ocean travel to a whale; he does it well, and it is fun to watch.

The difficulty facing Ustinov the author is greater. What to do with the curmudgeonly time-traveller in the London of 1983 or 1996? There is, after all, limited mileage in jokes about the holes in the middle of CDs or the awfulness of a city where hamburger joints are not meeting-places for earnest north Germans. Ustinov has

several solutions to this problem, but none is satisfactory in itself and collectively they give his play an unfocused feel.

Partly, the topic seems to be the eagerness of critics to intellectualise an art which should be provoking unself-conscious joy. At any rate, Beethoven is required to complain to John Neville's Stephen, who thinks he knows more about him than he knows about himself, of scholars who over-analyse everything, down to "the urine in your chamberpot". The trouble is that this is more a matter of statement than dramatic conflict, for the wretched critic actually asks only one important question: who was the "immortal beloved" to whom the composer wrote those heartfelt letters?

This query brings onstage ghosts from Ludwig's past, among them the beautiful Countess Giulietta Guicciardi, who tells him: "I will always love you, I cannot help that, but life with you would kill me." It is an awkwardly managed episode and, given Ustinov's mistrust of biographical speculation, a surprising one; but at least it passes quickly. We revert to what is, I suppose, the evening's main emphasis: the



"This sort of thing comes to him as easily as ocean travel to a whale; he does it well, and it is fun to watch": Peter Ustinov in the revival of his own *Beethoven's Tenth*

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BASE NOTES

THE South Bank is to mount what is billed as the most extensive Robert Mapplethorpe exhibition ever later this year. Mapplethorpe's photographs, whose sexually explicit images sparked controversy throughout his short career, are to be seen in London as part of a retrospective at the Hayward Gallery (September 19 to November 17). The show, which includes more than 200 works, ranges from his glamorous society portraits to his graphic portrayals of sado-masochism.

LAST Monday's rapturously received *Crowded House* concert at London's Hammersmith Grand turns out to have been their last. The New Zealand band have announced their own extinction on the eve of releasing *Recurring Dream*, a "Best Of..." retrospective. "I think we were beginning to repeat ourselves," says frontman Neil Finn.

THE work of Randy Newman is to be celebrated in a new show at London's Tricycle Theatre. *Roll With The Punches* will play from July 4 to August 8 and stars George Costigan as the American songwriter. "It's a tale of love, booze, race, religion and politics," says the director Chris Bond.

WHAT is claimed to be the world's first museum of biography is one step closer to reality with the news that the Arts Council has awarded the British Institute of Biography £94,000 towards a feasibility study. The study will look into the possibilities of the £20 million scheme, called the Biorama Real Lives Centre project, to create the "world's first arts forum devoted entirely to the interpretation of real lives". If it does go ahead, the museum would be sited at Egham, near Windsor.

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THEATRE

Broadway is back to its winning ways with a run of excellent revivals

MUSIC

Ireland comes to London today, as the Chieftains lead the Fleadh in Finsbury Park

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE

From Britten's music at Aldeburgh to the big pop gigs: see Weekend, page 14, for the top events

ON MONDAY

Sting talks about his new career in films; plus Rodney Milnes at Glyndebourne



Antic antics: Mary Ann Lamb and Nathan Lane in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*

The potluck of the Irish

POP: Today's Fleadh in London will be a celebration of all things Irish, or at least Irish-ish

There are two kinds of musician: the Irish and those who wish they were. That, at least, is the popular wisdom in the musical clubs and pubs of Dublin, Cork and Galway. Supporting evidence is offered in Finsbury Park, north London, today by Fleadh-96, the largest festival of Irish music in Britain.

This year traditional Irish acts such as the Chieftains and Clannad and a newer generation of Irish singers including Mary Coughlan and the brilliant Sinéad Lohan all give way at the top of the bill to the Geordie-born Sting. The Irishness of a range of other artists, including Jools Holland, Lloyd Cole and such transatlantic imports as John Prine and 10,000 Maniacs, is equally dubious. Yet it is not difficult to see why English rock musicians are so anxious to associate with the Irish at present. All things Gaelic have never been more in vogue in hip London. In the 1970s white rock stars wanted to record with Jamaican musicians. By the 1980s the likes of Paul Simon and Peter Gabriel were looking towards Africa. Today it is the Emerald Isle. Mick Jagger, Mark Knopfler, Kate Bush (singing in Gaelic) and even Tom Jones have all recorded with Irish musicians.

Riverdance, a celebration of Irish steps and music, has become the most unexpected hit in recent showbiz history. Irish stouts have become the designer drinks of the 1990s. In short, the rest of Britain has discovered the delights of the *craic*, that uniquely Irish approach to having a good time that encompasses music, joking, storytelling, drinking and frequently, at the end of the evening, falling down.

Cole says: "There's a soul thing to the music. Quite simply, Irish people have it and we don't." Irish musicians have something in common spiritually with black musicians, he says. "Just listen to Van Morrison. Even when he's singing traditional Irish music, he doesn't sound white."

Yet there are essentially two Irish scenes in London. One centres around trendy clubs and bars in Soho and Camden; the other is based, as it always has been, in the run-down pubs and drafty halls of Kilburn and the north London Irish hinterland. They are a world apart. Venues such as the Galtymore in Cricklewood Broadway and the National in Kilburn will pack in a thousand Irish folk at a weekend to see performers, usually dressed in spangly green or red blazers, singing sentimental songs about Mary and Kathleen back home. The more youthful and mostly English aficionados of Irish music scarcely know such places exist. The older, easy listening audience is suspicious of the new converts.

But the two scenes have one thing in common: the black stuff. "We are on record as selling the most Guinness in any one day at any event ever," says Vince Power, the driving force behind Mean Fiddler, the Fleadh organiser. Tomorrow is likely to top the 54,000 pints consumed at last year's event — one in 20 of all the pints of Guinness consumed in Britain on the day. We are all Irish now.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

● Fleadh-96 is at Finsbury Park, London N4 today and tomorrow. Tickets cost £28; gates open 11am

So good they did them twice

Edward Karam enjoys Broadway revivals of two musicals and two American classics that put the cap on an excellent season

One of the most successful Broadway seasons in years ended with a quartet of first-class revivals that added depth to an already impressive line-up. Two musicals and a pair of classic American plays have been given productions that arguably equal, if not surpass, their originals.

A *Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Stephen Sondheim's first work as both composer and lyricist, needs a great comic actor as the Roman slave Pseudolus. Director Jerry Zaks waited a year for Nathan Lane to be available, and the gamble paid off. Following in the steps of Zero Mostel and Phil Silvers, Lane, now a major film star thanks to *The Birdcage*, excels at double-takes and improvisations.

Saks clearly believes that excess equals success, and he could have cut out some of the repetition (and put back the charming *Pretty Little Picture*) without disappointing anyone. He might also have curbed his

star a little, since Lane does not just fish for laughs, he throws out nets.

Mark Linn-Baker, an equally dextrous clown, uses less effort in the role of Hysterium. Impersonating a virgin, he sings "I'm lovely" as he winsomely curls a finger in his blond wig. Ernie Sabella (the voice of Pumbaa to Lane's Timon in *The Lion King*) plays the oily procurer Lycus with relish.

Though Christopher Renshaw's new Australian production of *The King and I* is often funny too, he invests the old chestnut with the power of operatic tragedy. Lou Diamond Phillips, best known as Richie Valens in the film *La Bamba*, creates a king who is inquisitive, stubborn, and occasionally ruthless. As Donna Murphy's prim but not sexless Anna takes the measure of his bluster and steel, she nudges him along the path

to Westernising Siam. The Rodgers and Hammerstein standards seem brand new and gleam as brightly as the ubiquitous gold on Brian Thomson's set.

In an age of actors who sing secondarily, the voices are extraordinary, particularly Jose Liana as Lun Tha and Joohee Choi as Tuptim in *We Kiss in a Shadow*; *Something Wonderful* from Taekwon Kim as Mme Liang; and Murphy in *Hello, Young Lovers*. Renshaw's attention to detail means that each tyke in the *March of the Siamese Children* has an individual personality — and they are cute, not cutesy.

Serious drama revisits two classics about dysfunctional families. Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* focuses on civil strife in the cocktail set; Sam Shepard's *Buried Child* on dirt-poor derelicts.

Director Gerald Gutierrez has cast several parts in Albee's dark, suburban fable about 20 years older than called for. But with Rosemary Harris as Agnes, under siege from Elaine Stritch's alcoholic Claire — sister, irritant and former lover of Agnes's husband Tobias — who could complain? Stritch brings not only precisely calibrated comic timing, but also a remarkable physicality: she stretches for a Martini with all her limbs. Harris underscores Agnes's care in choosing and inflecting her words, which suggest peacetime diplomacy. Suddenly, however, two friends arrive, beset by a nebulous fear and seeking permanent refuge in Tobias's grandly spacious home. George Grizzard's complacent Tobias is forced to take control, balancing his domestic obligations with social ones. Grizzard's halting, anguished last-act

speech as he struggles with the situation is masterly.

Sam Shepard has reportedly rewritten about 50 per cent of *Buried Child* for the Steppenwolf production directed by Gary Sinise, who shows more flair with the added comedy than with the sombre moments. Shelly, the young woman brought for a visit to her boyfriend Vince's family farm, now declares that she is a vegetarian. "Hilder was a vegetarian," growls Dodge, Vince's lice-infested grandfather.

Shepard's portrayal of the American family as physically, mentally and emotionally stunted carries a sharpened sense of infandilism, as the cantankerous Dodge screams for his bottle (whiskey, not formula), while his sour son Bradley (Leo Burmester), minus a leg, fights for his blanket. Incestuous Momma Halie (Lois Smith), in a red wig, slobbers over the preacher. Kelley Overbey, as Shelly, reacts to it with bewilderment that modulates into defiance, and gets out while she can.



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Peter Stothard reports from southern Italy on how the regional rivalries of the new Europe draw on the study of classical antiquity

The paradoxes of Zeno's countrymen

Campania IS Campania. Campania IS NOT Naples. So cries Antonio Rastrelli, ex-Fascist, ex-minister, aged 68 and living out his last political years as an elected regional boss in the Italian South. He does not need to shout and punch the air: he is talking to a few supporters and a group of European newspaper editors. But he cannot stop himself. He is angry. Like Simon Jenkins, Matthew Parris and many readers of *The Times* who have written to us since our debate on regionalism began last month, Signor Rastrelli senses growing opportunities throughout Europe for cultural and political independence. But he has a particular fear — that Naples, his big city neighbour, will ride the tide more successfully than Salerno and other smaller, equally independent-minded towns. "The problem of Campania IS Naples," he explodes, with a final fist-flying flourish.

Premio Napoli, a European journalism prize. And we had just met Signor Rastrelli's great rival, Antonio Bassolino, the charismatic ex-Communist Mayor of Naples, who had vaunted his own plans to make his city more autonomous and its artistic heritage a source of massive future funds from Brussels. Signor Bassolino is not an opponent whom a sensible man would choose to take on. He is a tough, intelligent street-trained politician who leads one of the world's most glorious and notorious cities. He seems perpetually watchful, with neither a Winston cigarette nor a witty word of self-deprecation ever far from his lips. Like his regional rival, his origins lie in an ideology that is now bankrupt. But while Signor Rastrelli seems to have little changed his style since the days of Mussolini (he calls himself the "father" of his Campania region),

Signor Bassolino has buried his Communism as deeply as Khrushchev said it would bury us. Culture wars, however, are notoriously unpredictable, and Naples is not an easy city to sell. Although Signor Bassolino has won international acclaim for curbing city-centre traffic and crime, to all but the most learned visitors the artistic glories of his city will always be something of a muddle. Most tourists go home confused about the patchwork of painting schools in the past millennium. If they have used an official guide the confusion is likely to be greater still: there is a Bassolino dream to turn young proto-pickpockets into site-custodians and "communicators of culture" but it will not easily be fulfilled.

As for instilling local pride in the past, where should he start? In front of the royal palace there is a row of statues of Neapolitan rulers, from Roger the Norman, through Germans, Spaniards and Frenchmen to Victor Emmanuel II of Savoy. None is a local hero. Signor Bassolino, even though his voyage from communism has not turned him as far as Christianity, seizes with enthusiasm upon the local liquefaction of St Gennaro's blood each year. "St Gennaro is the mayor of saints," he says, granting the holy man of Naples his ultimate accolade. "More like the saint of mayors," comments one of my fellow judges.

The Campanian part of our tour concentrates on an idea that is much more easily understood than most things Neapolitan. On the coast of Campania, inhabited by free-spirited Greek exiles 2,500 years ago, modern philosophy began: or, as Signor Rastrelli puts it in his inimitable way, "Magna Graecia IS here." A few miles away from Salerno lies the Greek colony of Paestum. By the side of three giant preserved temples, our guide vigorously deploys a map from the days, in the 5th and 6th century BC, when southern Italy, from Syracuse to Cumae, was the intellectual centre of the West.

Naples was, of course, also a part of Magna Graecia then, but "only a small part". At nearby Velia, "a more important Campanian site", we are reminded of Parmenides and Zeno, the first logical philosophers, who were applying reason to man's existence here "when Milan was a mud village and Bologna a barley field". This philosophical pair made a ferocious double act. Parmenides argued that there was one unchanging, knowable entity and that the world of appearances could not be trusted. Zeno constructed his famous paradoxes to prove how any opponent of this view must be wrong. When we hear Signor Rastrelli and his allies arguing how "there is ONE Campania and Naples IS NOT Campania", it is hard to resist the thought that ontology runs in the blood here.

At Velia the acropolis is covered with wild flowers and the Rose Gate is one of the most mysterious arches of antiquity. But the site is not as accessible as the regional government of Campania would like. Signor Rastrelli's men want better roads to bring more tourists to their politically advantageous places. He declares that his Campanians are "orphans of the old political system" and must use their past to connect themselves, independently of Naples and Rome, to the rest of Europe. Salerno University, whose medical studies are traced proudly back to Parmenides,

Are judges now the Opposition?

Michael Beloff QC on the conflict between judiciary and executive

This week's debate in the House of Lords on judicial participation in public controversy, instigated by Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, the long-serving Shadow Lord Chancellor, can only reinforce the widely held belief that the relationship between two branches of the constitution, the executive and the judiciary, is at a low ebb.

The need for such a debate would have been unthinkable even a decade ago. The major reason for the current tension is the degree to which a beleaguered Government considers that judges have overstepped the boundary which lies between law and politics, and have become — in fact, if not in aim — a part of the Opposition.

The courts are constantly placing tripwires in the Government's path over such matters as railway franchises, the regulations to curtail benefits to asylum-seekers, and the fixing of a minimum period of detention for the young murderers of James Bulger. The taking up of office this week of Lord Woolf as Master of the Rolls will herald no period of judicial self-restraint: extra-judicial counsel and gamekeeper, he has turned as judge into the most vigorous of poachers: nor does Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Taylor of Gosforth's successor, sound anything other than an independent trumpet.

What are the causes of the well documented growth of judicial review — the modern name for the control by the courts of the lawfulness, fairness and reasonableness of the decisions of public authorities? Some are technical: the modernisation of the procedures and remedies between 1977 and 1981, now under prospect of further reform in the light of the successive reports of the Law Commission in 1994 and Lord Woolf in 1995. Some are personal: overall the contemporary leaders of the judiciary are intellectually more adventurous and temperamentally more creative than their predecessors. A decade and a half of one-party rule has prompted members of the public and, in particular, pressure groups to exploit the new opportunities offered by a developing administrative law. And, as Simon Jenkins has demonstrated in *The Tory Nationalisation of Britain*, the perpetual reforms of British institutions have enlarged the target for legal remedies.

But there are more profound influences at play. Prime among them is the impact of Europe. Although the capacity of the domestic judges to displace even Acts of Parliament was genetically im-

planted in the European Communities Act 1972, it was not until the decisions more than two decades on in *Factortame* (the Spanish fishing case) and *Marshall No. 2* (the equal pay case) that this capacity was given widely publicised expression. Judges such as Lord Woolf himself and Mr Justice Laws have even hinted that in extreme cases, where fundamental liberties were at stake, the judges could overrule statute by reference to the common law — a position last held by Sir Edward Coke in the 17th century.

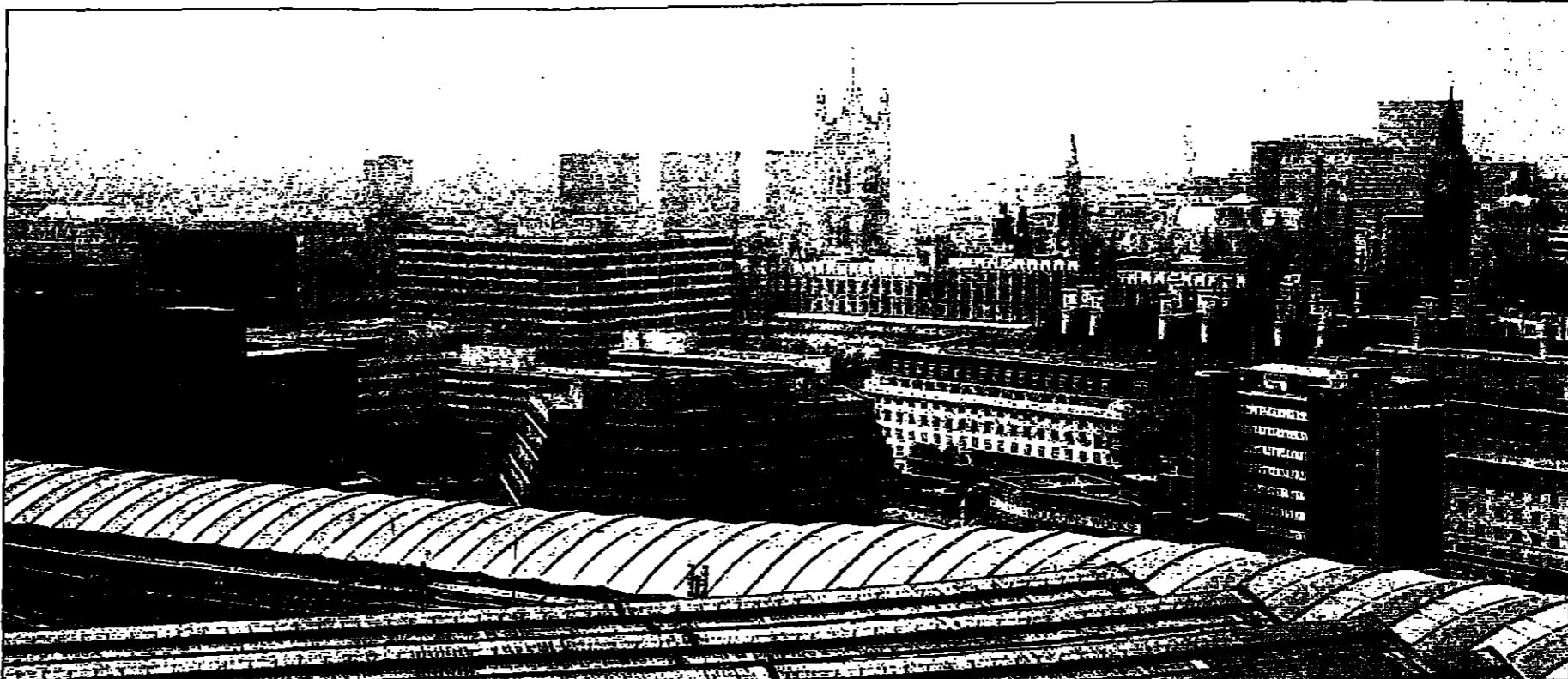
The European Convention on Human Rights, although not part of English law, has certainly influenced the thinking of the judiciary, and has been deployed in a variety of ways to adorn their decisions. The principles of administrative law have grown to the extent that decisions of less than a decade's vintage can be treated not as binding precedent, but as obsolete.

As so often, it is the perception, rather than the reality which has aggravated the situation. The Government wins far more cases than it loses; but its defeats command the headlines, its victories are confined to the law reports. In an effort to correct the picture the Master of the Rolls in the recent case of *ex p. Pierson* felt obliged to say that "the case involved no challenge to the Secretary of State personally; he was named in the application because he was responsible for the department within which the decisions were made".

Anyone who recalls the vigour with which the Denning court laid about the alleged maladministration of the Labour Government will know that the judges are impartial between the parties. However, the subjects that now engage the courts, schools, transport and the environment, are the very stuff of politics. The judges may not be political; they cannot escape the fact that their decisions have profound political impact.

In 1956, Lord Devlin, a candidate for judge of the century, said that the common law lacked the "strength to provide any satisfactory solution to the problem of keeping the executive under proper control; the responsibility for that now lies with Parliament".

The exact reverse has occurred. The constant skirmishes at the boundary between the titans of law and of politics may disenchant the public at large and diminish their confidence in both. Judicial control of the executive vindicates the rule of law: executive control of the judiciary destroys it.



The Palace of Westminster, seen from above the Eurostar terminus on the South Bank; the proposed development would replace the hexagonal block in the centre foreground

No room for London's view

A plan is afoot to blight the approach to Westminster, yet neither Government nor Parliament seems to care

Dear God, the very houses seem asleep, and all that mighty heart is lying still." I hate to hack at Wordsworth, but for once we have a serious attack of sleeping houses, and by Westminster Bridge itself.

The houses are those of Parliament. A plan is afoot of which I doubt if a single MP or peer is aware. It concerns a site just 200 yards from Big Ben in the heart of the capital. Were that 200 yards on the north bank of the Thames there would be uproar. Instead it is over Westminster Bridge on the opposite bank. As far as the denizens of Westminster are concerned, that is the Wild South. There live dragons, socialists and the ghosts of County Hall. The district could sink back into the river swamp for all they care. Yet it is the one bit of south London that politicians see every working day of their lives. It is a landmark site. It should be London's Arc de Triomphe.

The local Lambeth Council recently cut a deal with a firm of developers variously named Progress Estates or Galliard Homes to fill in the gardens behind old County Hall with two huge residential blocks. This easing of normal housing density was in return for a modest £1 million "consideration" to the council (on a profit that could be as high as £40 million). The same group has now put together a deal with the council to construct two large office blocks, on the roundabout on the south side of Westminster Bridge. They would block in the view across the bridge south from Parliament.

The site is at present occupied by an ugly and empty tiered hexagonal block, riddled with asbestos. When last discussed at a public inquiry, this building was to be demolished and replaced by a public square. The square would balance Parliament Square to the north and be framed by the Eurostar terminal at one end and the view of Big Ben at the other. The replacement of the mean St Thomas hospital extension offered the chance of a foil to Big Ben. This and the renovation of the County Hall entrance with its famous lion would project the bridge approach as a triumphal entry to the heart of the capital.

This square was to be a showcase for British urban design on one of the few sites still available in the city centre and near the Thames. Passengers arriving at Waterloo's Channel Tunnel terminus would be able to see out across the square to the river and the towers of Westminster beyond, at the moment of drawing into Waterloo station. At last here was an opportunity for some urban design as good as anything in Paris.

Yet how typically British. We propose instead two commercial office blocks by an unknown firm called BUJ Architects. They will fill the site of the original square and obliterate any hope of a view. The

Simon Jenkins

blocks have recently been reduced by two storeys under pressure from English Heritage, but retain their original bulk.

The new County Hall area is to be an unplanned mass of densely packed commercial buildings, worthy only of a Moscow ringway. Is this really what John Gummer means by his commitment to being a self-styled "Minister for London"?

I am told that Lambeth Council has been offered an undisclosed "consideration", a matter to which the Audit Commission might turn its attention. Payments of this sort are in my book nothing short of legalised bribery. I would be happy to test the definition of that term in the courts.

Lambeth council is behaving as the worst Tory council behaved when in thrall to property interests. That it should be happening under the nose of Parliament, within sight of Tony Blair's office and on the way to the party's headquarters in Walworth Road is astonishing. But at this point politics raises its head.

To Lambeth councillors, the northern boundary is lost land, bereft of Labour voters and good only for squeezing small cash from bad development.

The agreement to fill in the County Hall gardens with expensive flats is astonishing from a party supposedly committed to urban greenery. County Hall itself is destined to open next year as a Japanese aquarium, courtesy of the Government. One of the most promising Thameside sites is "now leased" out... like to a tenement or "peeling farm", to borrow from Shakespeare, another poet whose ghost inhabits these parts.

If Lambeth wants to abuse the South Bank as a showcase of Tory greed, I sense that the Government is happy to exploit it for a similar but converse reason. Ministers are acutely embarrassed by County Hall, still derelict ten years after its seizure by Kenneth Baker. Environment Secretary in Margaret Thatcher's Government, it was left empty as public symbol of all that was worst in the old Greater London Council. This was a pastiche of the communist habit of seizing aristocratic castles and leaving them to rot as monuments to the *ancien régime*.

The Government did not intervene to stop building on County Hall gardens, though it had powers to do so. I suppose it will be in no mood to intervene to protect the sight-lines to Big Ben. Lambeth can be accused of wrecking the place and that will suit ministers fine. There is, of course, no London authority body to blow the whistle on this scandal. The last London-wide authority is in concrete shoes at the bottom of a new aquarium.

This way most of the interested parties end up happy, and some end up rich. The only interested party not involved is the public interest. I venture to suggest the public would like a square. Central government meddles at will in local affairs when it suits, but pleads local discretion when it can scratch political capital from the resulting mess. Like the horrors of Marsham Street or the scandal of the British Library, there is no buck that is passed with the swiftness of a British Government buck.

London's Westminster Bridge is not a local matter. It is an international landmark. The bridge itself, though sadly not Wordsworth's, still offers an unequalled view of London. Squallid politics should not dictate changes to this view. In Berlin and Paris the handling of the approach to Westminster Bridge would be a challenge to the design excellence of the age. Politics comes and goes, but monuments live for ever.

Wordsworth was in no doubt. "Dull might be of soul who could pass by, a sight so touching in its majesty." But dull would he also be who could not stop this disaster on its way to happen. Indeed the very houses are asleep. The mighty heart is lying still. No one is in charge.

On the ball

LABOUR politicians are tripping over themselves to be seen participating in the European football championship. Both in the VIP box and down in the stands it will be hard to shovelled down a neat pie without being interrupted by the strangled chants of a Shadow Cabinet member. In contrast, the Tories are staying away.

Attending for Labour will be their leader, Tony Blair, who is expected at both the opening game



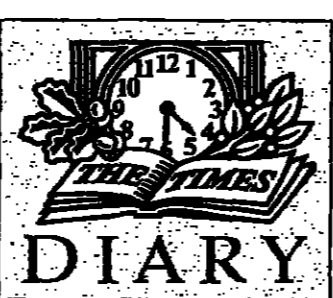
Tony Blair: a step ahead

today and at games at St James' Park, the home of his team, Newcastle United. David Blunkett, the Shadow Health spokesman, will be going to as many games as possible at Hillsborough, in his home town of Sheffield.

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, promises to go to a few games, while in the office of Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, you can almost hear the rattles and the clink of furious scarf knitting. "Gordon will be going to as many games as he can," says his staff. "England v Scotland, of course, the final and any others we can get tickets for."

Though they had Michael Howard, Kenneth Clarke and Virginia Bottomley all jostling in the VIP box at the FA Cup Final, Tories are airy about attending Euro 96. Those definitely off games include most of the heavyweights — Heseltine, Rifkind, Portillo, Hogg, Dorrell, Shephard. Only the Prime Minister, Kenneth Clarke and Virginia Bottomley have even the vaguest plans to attend. A lesson in popular politics is in order.

● Cockroach trouble has hit Trinity College, Cambridge, the univer-



sity's, and one of the country's, richest institutions. Last week the college was forced to bring in the pest controllers after a series of student-roach tussles in the 18th-century New Court buildings. The pest men are pessimistic. "These cockroaches are crafty," says a spokesman. "Trinity has a war of attrition on its hands."

Right off

MEL GIBSON, Australia's Olivier, has stamped on claims by Pat Buchanan, the failed Republican presidential candidate, that he is a Buchanan supporter. Buchanan had expressed his keen admiration for the "lock and load" populism of Gibson's Oscar-winning film, *Braveheart*, and its expression of "traditional values". Hanging, drawing and quartering features

prominently in the film. When Buchanan's team went one stage further and claimed that Gibson, who is sympathetic to Buchanan's pro-life stance on abortion, had endorsed their candidate, Gibson's team were swift to respond. "He hasn't endorsed anyone," they said, "and he was quite upset to find out that Buchanan's campaign is saying he has."

● TAKING his unique brand of diplomacy to Madrid on Thursday was Douglas Hogg, our unfairly maligned Agriculture Minister. In a press conference at the British Embassy, he put in another of his terrifically strong, silent performances. For half an hour, he scowled and frowned while Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, dealt with an extremely aggressive pack of Spanish journalists. Only at the very end did Hogg spring to life when asked a direct question. Instantly, he was off on a lengthy discourse on mammalian proteins. When he did finish, the asker of the question looked worsted and headed for the door muttering about needing a treble Fandango brandy.

Horse play

MORE temperamental horse problems are afflicting the Royal Opera

House in Covent Garden. Viewers of the BBC series, *The House*, earlier this year will remember a scene in which two shire horses crashed through the stage during Janacek's *Kara Kubanova*.

Now the star horse of the Opera House's production of Verdi's *Don Carlos*, which opens on Tuesday, has been fired. The white mare was due to sweep off stage the heroine Elisabeth, played by Karita Mattila, at the end of Act One. Sadly, she failed to adapt to the powerful stage lights and grew surly. "She wouldn't do what she was told," says her spokesman, Keith Cooper. The horse which took the role



in the original production in Paris will return as a replacement.

Read my lips

BAD omens for the next four years of John Birt's reign at the BBC as his announcement to staff yesterday of his extended tenure was plagued by technical glitches. Doing his best Big Brother, Birt appeared on the closed circuit televisions around the BBC HQ giving a pre-recorded interview to a sweaty-looking Robin Reynolds, editor of the in-house rag, *Ariel*. Birt needed some Paxmanesque discipline, as he unrolled and ached his way through the interview.

As Birt expounded on his theories of programme quality, his words began to fall out of synch with his lip movements. The interview ended up looking like a poorly dubbed German management video.

High noon

HOLSTERS lie forlornly on the green room floors at Sadler's Wells where the Wild West musical *Calamity Jane* is in deep trouble. On Wednesday night the show's stars, Gemma Craven and Stephen McGann, failed to leap whooping on stage as usual and their under-



Gemma Craven: calamity

studies had to step in. It was the same story on Thursday night. The actors were apparently locked in a disagreement over money, or rather the lack of it.

Craven's people were not in a yee-hah sort of mood yesterday, but Ian Albery, chief executive of Sadler's Wells, said: "They had some difficulties out on the road when one of the theatres they were playing went into liquidation. It's all very finely balanced. It's very difficult." He hopes to have his stars back soon.

P.H.S

GLYN WORSNIP

Worsnip was teamed up with



Worsnip started receiving his own postbag from appreciative women viewers — although he was happily married, with a wife and young

Matters were made worse by his occasionally slurred speech, which some people, unkindly and wrongly, implied was caused by an alcohol

Glyn Worsnip married his wife, Jo, in 1965. The marriage recently ended in divorce, and he is survived by their daughter and by his mother and father.

JEAN SINCLAIR

The Government loathed and ridiculed them, suggesting through a lapdog Afrikaans-language press and some not too sympathetic English-language newspapers, that these well-groomed ladies would be far better employed looking after their children and ensuring that their husbands' meals were served on



It was the beginning of the armed struggle and the most repressive period of apartheid rule. As the crackdown on all forms of dissent intensified, membership of the Black Sash declined and in 1961 Jean Sinclair took over the presidency, a position she was to

Jean Sinclair is survived by three sons and two daughters.

HENRY JOHNS

In 1925 he moved to Prince's Club in Knightsbridge as a junior professional. It was there that he acquired his skill at real tennis. In 1934 he moved to the Cazalet court at

When Jack Groom died in 1954 Henry was his natural successor as head professional and held that post with outstanding success until he retired in 1975. On his retirement the MCC conferred honorary membership of the

Perhaps his greatest contribution to the game was as coach and trainer. He taught many of today's professionals: among them David Cull, his successor at Lord's; David Johnson at Queen's; Brian Church at Cambridge; Peter Barrett at Seacourt and Derek Barrett at Manchester.

After his retirement, Johns continued to work part-time for two days a week at both Lord's and Queen's. He only gave up some 18 months ago for reasons of health. But quite apart from his achievements he will be remembered for his kindness and courtesy both on and off the court. He was not only a great professional, but also a great gentleman.

Rowles was born James George Hunter, but adopted his stepfather's surname. He was initially a self-taught pianist, but he acquired a sound technique and the beginnings of his encyclopaedic recall of hundreds of popular songs when still a student at the University of Washington in Seattle. When he moved to Los Angeles in 1940, he worked in the dance bands of Garwood Vam and Moussey Marsalino before being snapped up to work with several major jazz musicians including Lester Young, Ben Webster and Slim Gaillard.

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His most noteworthy pupil was his own daughter Stacy, born in 1955, who has become a distinguished jazz trumpeter, a champion of women's causes in jazz, and who survives him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]

The scene at the division will be one which will never be forgotten by those who have the privilege of witnessing it. The House was filled from floor to ceiling. The Peers' Gallery overflowed with members of the Upper House, and beside and behind were serrated ranks of spectators in the galleries assigned to Ambassadors and distinguished strangers; while the Speaker's and Strangers' Galleries were crammed to suffocation. When Mr. Gladstone sat down at 7 minutes past 1, having spoken nearly one hour and three-quarters, the Speaker immediately put the question, and a tremendous uproar followed. The speaker asked those in favour of the Bill to say "Aye." This was immediately followed by an even louder cry against the Bill. The Speaker had no hesitation in declaring that the "Ayes" had it, but the decision was formally challenged, amid cheers, counter-cheers, and cries of "Agreed" from the Irish benches. Then the bells rang, the bar became more

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crowded than ever, and the Speaker instructed the "Ayes" to go to the right and the "Noes" to the left. A scene of tremendous excitement then took place. It was believed that the Government was beaten, for the Ayes tellers had returned, some seconds before the Noes. Then the long pent-up excitement culminated with a loud, long, and triumphant cheer from the Unionists. It was in vain that the Speaker and beckoned for silence. Cheers succeeded cheers, and the tellers stood in line waiting for the fatal

numbers to be announced. At 26 minutes past 1 silence was temporarily restored, and Mr. Brand, in tones so clear as not to be misunderstood, announced "Ayes to the right, 31; Noes to left, 34." It was to all intents and purposes impossible to describe what followed. The rank and file of the Conservative party shouted themselves hoarse with cheering, at the same time waving their hats triumphantly and jumping on their seats in exultation. There was also some cheering on the Liberal benches, but Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Calne sat immovable, and Ministers apparently accepted their defeat with resignation. A voice sang out "Three cheers for our Grand Old Man." The whole House seemed to respond to the call, and Liberals and Parnellites went in applauding the mover of the Bill. The galleries seemed to join in the honour paid to the Prime Minister, for the whole House appeared charged with electricity. Mr. Gladstone's motion to adjourn was at once adopted. Members then began to leave amidst discordant cries against the dissentient Liberals.

